

# Russia

## I. The Genius & Simplicity of Its Peoples

By Hamilton Fyfe

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"THE East in Cold Storage!" That was the phrase fashioned to describe Russia by a clever Englishwoman who paid a short visit to the country. It was not entirely true, but there was a great deal of truth in it. The most easterly nation of Europe could hardly escape the influence of the Oriental character. But while the Russian is the most eastern of the western nations, so it is also the most westerly of those which are habituated to Eastern habits of thought.

This gives the Russian character an interesting duality. It is vastly more attractive than the Polish character, which is pure Slav. The Tartars, who are indigenous to the country, and the Mongols of Chinese race who overran Russia in the thirteenth century and stayed there in large numbers, introduced a definitely Asiatic strain. Some districts are still inhabited by Mongols or by Tartars of unmixed ancestry, who have preserved their racial traits. But these have not affected the general Russian character, the Oriental aspects of which are due to

the mixture of races. The Slavs are a white people, quite distinct from Turks, Mongols, and Semitic races. They appear to have been in Southern Russia from time immemorial. They became civilized as soon as they adopted Christianity (988), and would, so far as one can surmise, have advanced at the same rate as the other nations of Europe but for the Mongol invasion. This checked their development and they

have never made up the lost ground. The part of the Russian people which reproduces most clearly the Slav element is that which inhabits the central and southern regions, and is called the Little Russian. The Great Russians are a mixture of Slav and Finn with Tartar influence. They became the dominant section after the Mongol invasion of the thirteenth century. Moscow was then made the capital instead of Kiev, and it remained the capital until Peter the Great built Petersburg, known since the Great War as Petrograd, and moved the machinery of government there.

It was Peter who put Russia back



NURSE OF YOUNG RUSSIA

Modest and unassuming, the nyanya, or Russian nurse, stands as a symbolic figure of honest service and whole-hearted devotion towards the children placed in her care.

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politically among the nations of Europe, and tried to regain for her the place which she had lost when the Asiatics attacked her. She had to fight them for centuries, and in the end she drove them out, excepting those who had settled down in the country. Thus she

reforms; perhaps the hurt was even greater than the advantage. When, for example, he decided to Prussianise his system of government, he inflicted an injury upon the nation from which it is still suffering acute discomfort and loss. That act of his led directly to the Revolution, and because the men who first came into power after the deposition of the Tsar were men brought up under the influence of the Prussian system, the country slipped into a lamentable condition of general chaos.

Peter wanted the state to be all-powerful, all-pervading. He increased enormously the number of officials; he put them all into uniform. Up to the end of the Tsardom, Cabinet Ministers had to wear an absurd-looking suit of office when they went to see the Tsar. Even Russian schoolboys used to have their little uniforms. Petrograd was a city of *tchinovniks*, as officials are called. Peter created an official aristocracy. Fourteen *tchins*, or grades of nobility, were invented, each with its military as well as its civil side. This gave the servants of the state an



RUSSIAN PEASANT ON HER WAY TO MARKET

In normal conditions young pigs thrive in the houses of the poorest Russian peasantry, petted and spoiled like members of the family, but a day comes when the porker, comfortably proportioned, is borne to market in the manner shown above

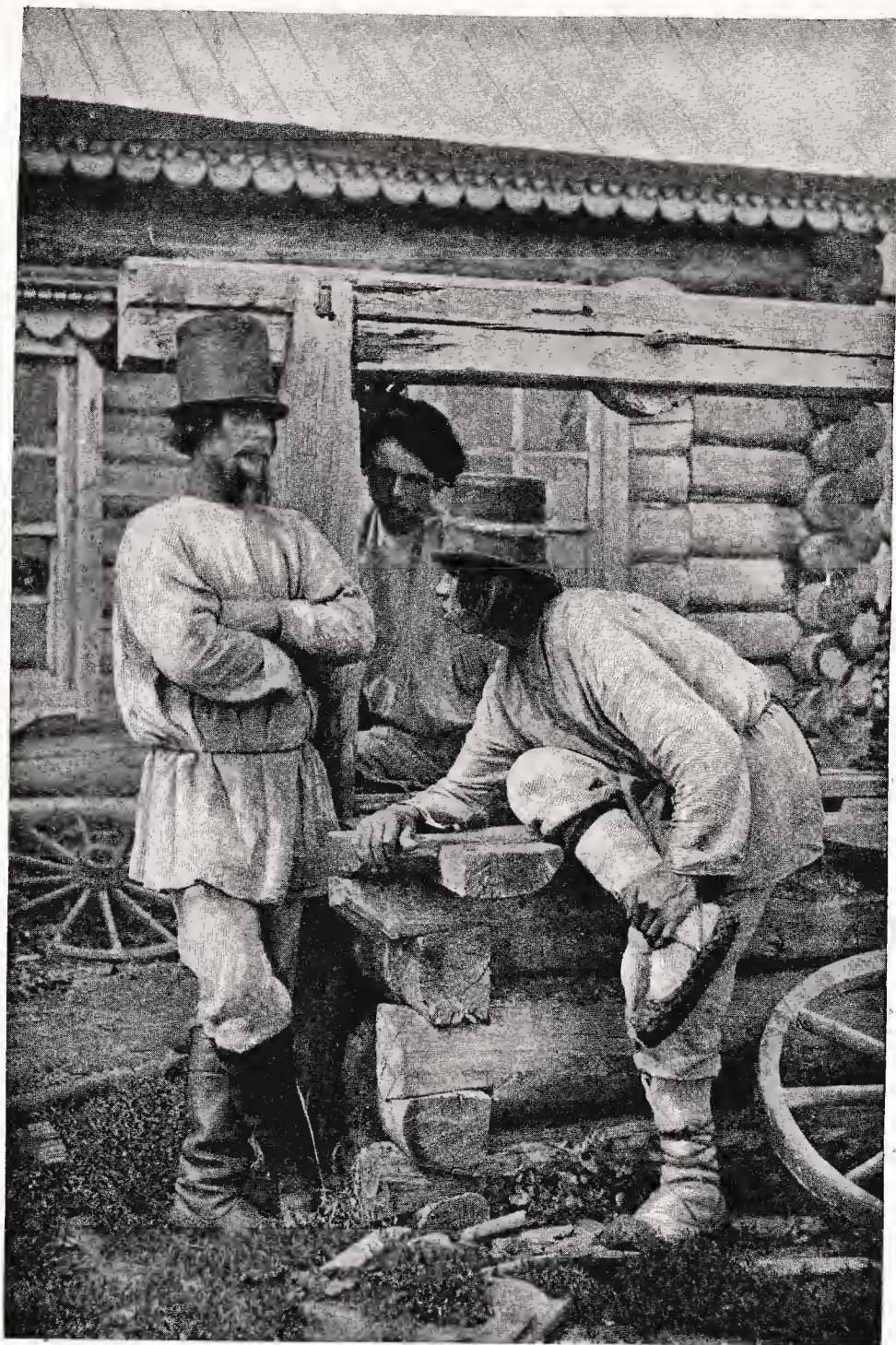
saved the rest of Europe from being overrun by them, and for this service she has suffered ever since. It ill becomes the rest of Europe, therefore, to deride her for being behind it in certain developments of civilization.

Peter was a man of boundless energy. He was ready to follow advice from anybody, to pick up ideas anywhere. Unfortunately, he followed as often as not the wrong idea. Russia was as much damaged as benefited by his

incentive to work hard and struggle up the ladder of rank. Those who reached the upper rungs were held in high respect, although they had in reality little power.

Many of the stories of Anton Tchekov, who illustrated every side of Russian life with the insight of genius and delicious humour, are about *tchinovniks* and their ambitions, their incompetence, their efforts to win advancement. One tells of a clerk in some public office who coughed down





#### GROPING FOR LIGHT UPON THEIR DISCONTENTS

Men such as these are to be found by the thousand in Russian country districts, abandoned to their ignorance, prejudice, and superstition. Totally illiterate, they were kept in mental darkness, because it was deemed inexpedient and dangerous to give them opportunities of acquiring knowledge; nevertheless, with blunted minds, they sought incessantly for the meaning and cause of their misery



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the neck of a general sitting in front of him at the theatre. He asked pardon immediately, again during the interval, again next day, and at last annoyed the general so much by his grovelling apologies that he was told angrily to go to the devil. He goes home and dies!

Another story is about a tchinovnik who borrowed a decoration to wear at a dinner party given by a family which thought a great deal of such things. When he sits down at table he sees opposite to him a colleague. All his

The most famous comedy on the Russian stage is a satire on officials by Gogol. It is called "The Inspector," and although it was written in the early part of the nineteenth century, the fun is still keenly appreciated, for the ways of inspectors have changed very little. Thus, while the well-to-do Russian people respected the officials of the Tsardom, and the poor feared them, all enjoyed seeing them made fun of.

At their fussiness with regard to official forms and ceremonies, at their



### WITHIN THE PRECINCTS OF THE MONASTERY OF NEW JERUSALEM

Situated near Moscow, this far-famed monastery is eloquent of an important page in the ecclesiastical history of Russia. The beautiful church, copied in the minutest details from a model of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, was begun about 1657 by the Patriarch Nikon, and the greater part of it was completed by him during his retirement from Moscow after his quarrel with Tsar Alexis

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*

pleasure is killed, he cannot eat any dinner, he is obliged to keep his hand over the decoration so that his colleague may not see it and denounce him as an impostor. This misery is endured until the colleague is asked by the host to pour out a glass of wine for a lady. He then shows his chest, and there hangs a higher decoration to which he has no right! He had borrowed a plume also.

laziness and disregard of the public interest, at their taking of bribes, the Russians only shrugged their shoulders. What could they do to improve matters? It was better to pay bribes and be left alone than to make a fuss and have the tchinovniks against one. No good complaining. Nitchevo!

Here we come upon one of the Eastern features of the Russian character, its





### "TSAR KOLOKOL" LYING IN STATE AT THE FOOT OF IVAN VELIKI

The largest bell in the world, "Tsar Kolokol," of Kremlin fame, measures 26 feet in height, 66 feet in circumference, and weighs 200 tons. According to the inscription it was cast in 1735 at Moscow, and later, during a fire, a piece, weighing about eleven tons, was broken off. The bell lay embedded in the ground until 1836, when, by order of the Emperor, it was raised to its present position

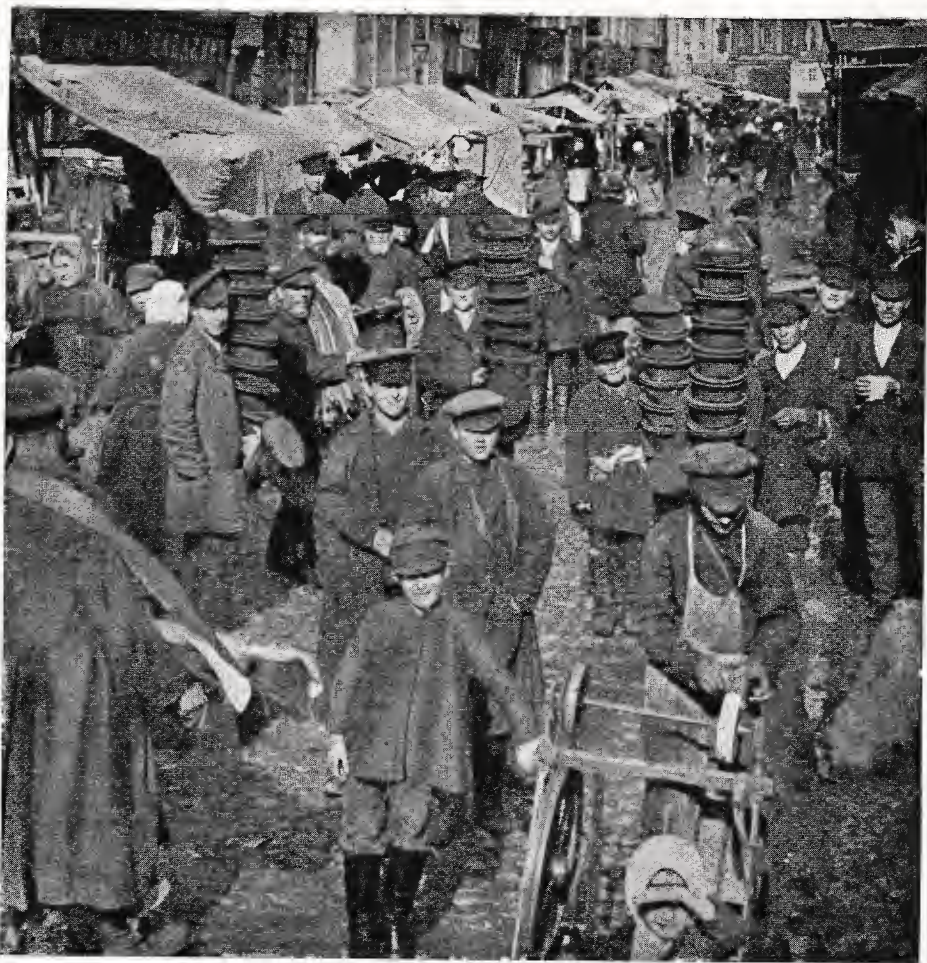


### COLOSSAL ORNAMENTED CANNON OF THE MOSCOW KREMLIN

At one corner of the row of many old-fashioned cannon, which line the main façade of the Kremlin Barracks, stands "Tsar Poushka," an enormous cannon, which was cast in 1586, and is  $17\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and  $38\frac{1}{2}$  tons in weight. The immense ball weighed nearly two tons. "Tsar Poushka" and "Tsar Kolokol," the enormous bell, have been considered not the least important of the Kremlin "sights"

*Photos, Florence Farmborough*





#### HATS FOR SALE IN A BUSY STREET OF MOSCOW'S CHINA TOWN

Among various hats favoured by the Russian "man in the street" the kind known as the fourazhka is evidently the most popular in this neighbourhood. It is a rather more easy-going form of the Russian military cap. It will be noticed that while venders of other goods in this quarter, known as Kitai Gorod, or China Town, are presiding over booths, the hat sellers are walking among the crowds

*Photo, Underwood Press Service*

fatalism, its disinclination to make any effort, its willingness to endure authority which it dislikes, but which it will not exert itself to get rid of. Nitchevo, literally "nothing," has many meanings besides "It doesn't matter," but that is the one most often attached to it.

This word expresses one whole side of the Russian nature. It is a nature which rises superior to the smaller worries and vexations of life. It adopts the wisdom contained in the French proverb, "Si on n'a pas ce que l'on aime, il faut aimer ce que l'on a" (If one hasn't what one likes, one must like what one has). The Russians admire a "wide nature."

They like to see people who can bear good fortune and ill fortune with an equal mind. They believe in spending money, in getting all the enjoyment possible out of existence. They will work hard when they know there is a certain reward to be won, as, for example, during the short northern summer, when they are in the fields from sunrise till sunset; or in war, when the troops dig trenches for shelter with alacrity, even with enthusiasm. But they do not admit the pleasure of working for work's sake. They prefer to be idle for the sake of idleness. Least of all do they admire the





#### PEASANT ICE-MERCHANT GOES HIS ROUNDS TO A TOWN CLIENTÈLE

Many a firm in Russia has been able to amass a small fortune by trading in ice, and even the peasant has been known to carry on this business in an unostentatious way; in the early months of the year hacking from the frozen rivers great blocks of ice, which are preserved in underground storage, to be distributed to town customers during the torrid days of summer

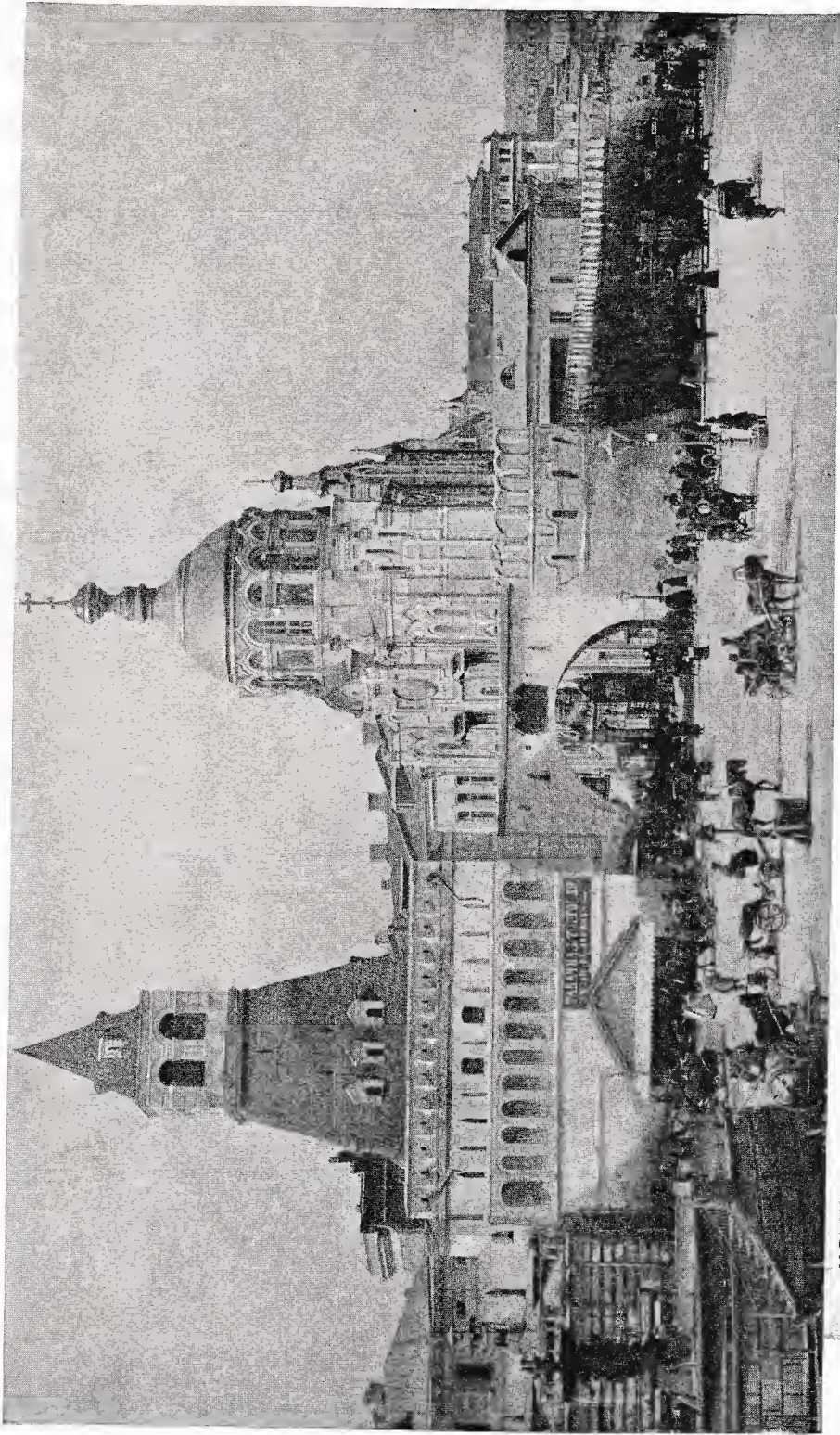


#### MIXED MEMBERS OF MOSCOW'S STREET PEASANTRY

The town peasant is as far removed from the land peasant as the North Pole from the South. He delights to ape the mannerisms of the merchant, and is well versed in all the wily ways of the commercial class. When his land brother, slow witted and thinking no evil, makes an appearance, he is the first to bid him welcome—and not always the last to fleece him

*Photos. Florence Farmborough*

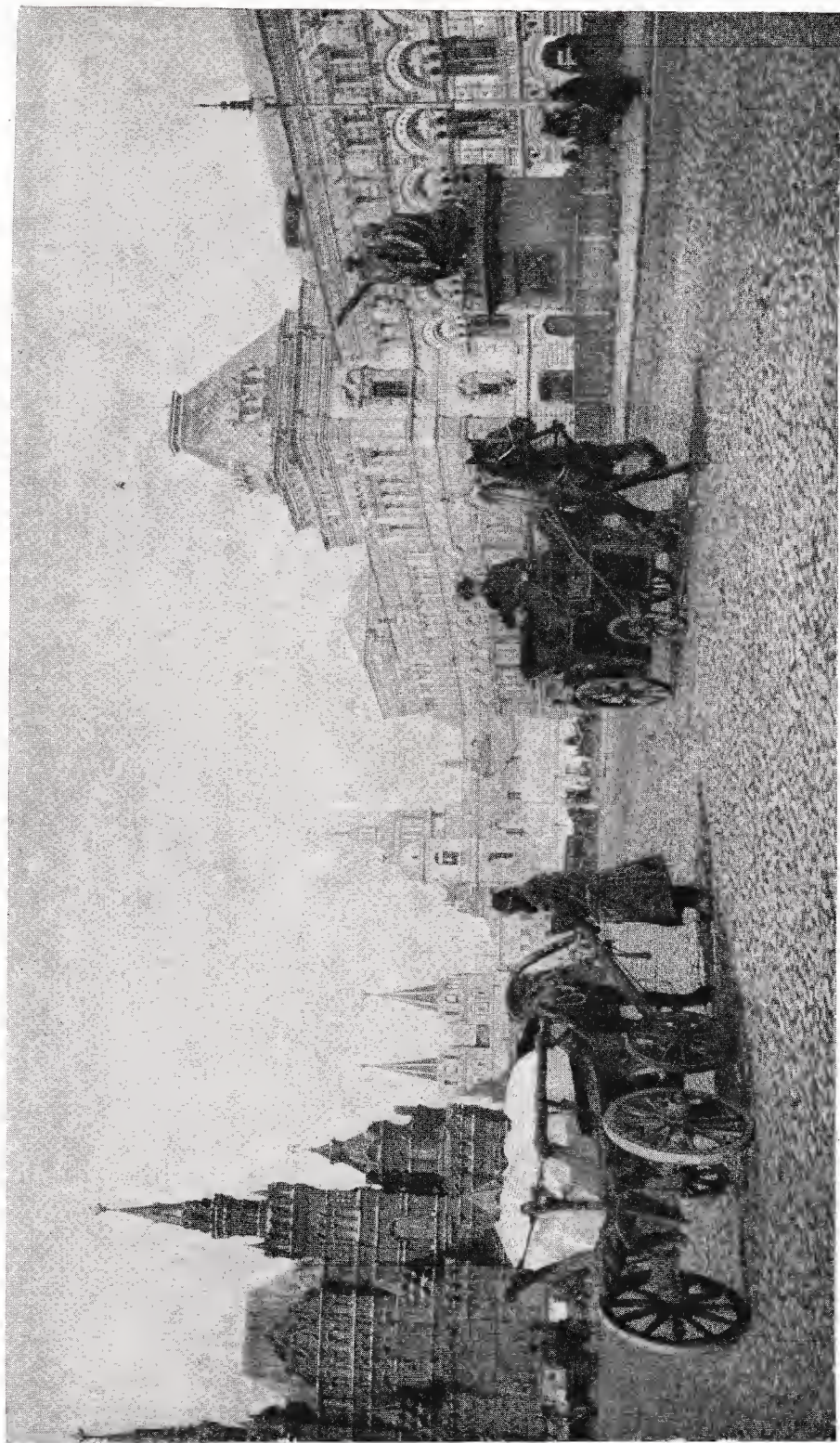




MORNING ACTIVITIES IN ONE OF MOSCOW'S GREAT OPEN SPACES, THE LOUBIANSKI SQUARE

In the foreground several drosbkys or cabs ply for hire, and behind and to the left a rude water cart, a mere barrel on wheels, takes in water at the large circular fountain, with its railings and flight of steps. In the background is an archway called Vladimir Gate, and an icon can be seen on the wall directly over it. On one side of this arch is a notice proclaiming that the booth under it sells tobacco. Down the hill trams run to the Theatre Square, where stands the magnificent Opera House, or Great Imperial Theatre, one of the largest in the world





PRINCE AND PEASANT PASSING OVER THE COBBLES OF THE FAMOUS RED SQUARE IN MATOUSHKA MOSKVA.

Moscow is essentially a city of contrasts, and all the diverse characteristics and peculiarities of the Russian race are abundantly obvious in this ancient-modern "Heart of Russia." The Krasnaya or Red Square lies between a battlemented wall of the Kremlin and the so-called Trading Rows, composed of many hundred offices and shops, before the façade of which stands the monument bearing the bronze figures of Minin and Pozharski, Russian heroes responsible for the defeat of the Poles at Moscow in 1612. In the background on the left is seen the massive building of the Historical Museum, containing many valuable collections

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*





#### WOULD-BE WORKERS OF UNWORKMANLIKE ASPECT

The Moscow town peasantry are not an attractive people, and the commercial lower class offers but one type—a short, thick-set individual of drab appearance and with a slouching gait, accentuated by stout high boots, usually a couple of sizes too big for him. His burly form, enveloped in the workman's apron, was formerly seen lolling about the market places, quite contented to be "waiting on business"

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*



#### POLYGLOT PURCHASERS SWARMING IN THE OLD SMOLENSKI RUINOK

In the market places of Moscow every imaginable article or class of goods could formerly be purchased, and in some quarters beautiful old icons and second-hand jewelry were to be found lying side by side with sweetmeats and coils of rope. In and out of the rows of booths the people pushed their way; a distinct undercurrent of Oriental life providing a certain charm best appreciated by the ethnologist



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plodder—the man who just goes on doing his duty from day to day, year after year, without any excitements to help him along. They pity him, they also despise him for a poor creature. They must have excitement to keep them going. Not for them the middle course, the golden mean of steady industry, and moderate opinions, and emotions

Russian novels have given foreigners the idea that the Russians are on the whole a melancholy race. That no one who knows them would admit. Yet they do seem to need stimuli to cheerfulness. Cultivated minds find company and conversation sufficient. Those who are less intelligent fly to champagne and tziganes, if they are well off; to



CORNER OF HISTORICAL MOSCOW GIVING ACCESS TO THE KREMLIN

A bridge connects the Troitskiya Vorota, one of the five famous gates of the Kremlin, with an outer tower, and divides into two parts the Alexander Garden which, with its fine avenue of lindens, laid out by Alexander I., runs along the west side of the Kremlin walls. Facing this ancient gate, in the Mokhovaya street, rises Moscow's seat of learning, the Imperial University, the oldest in Russia

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*

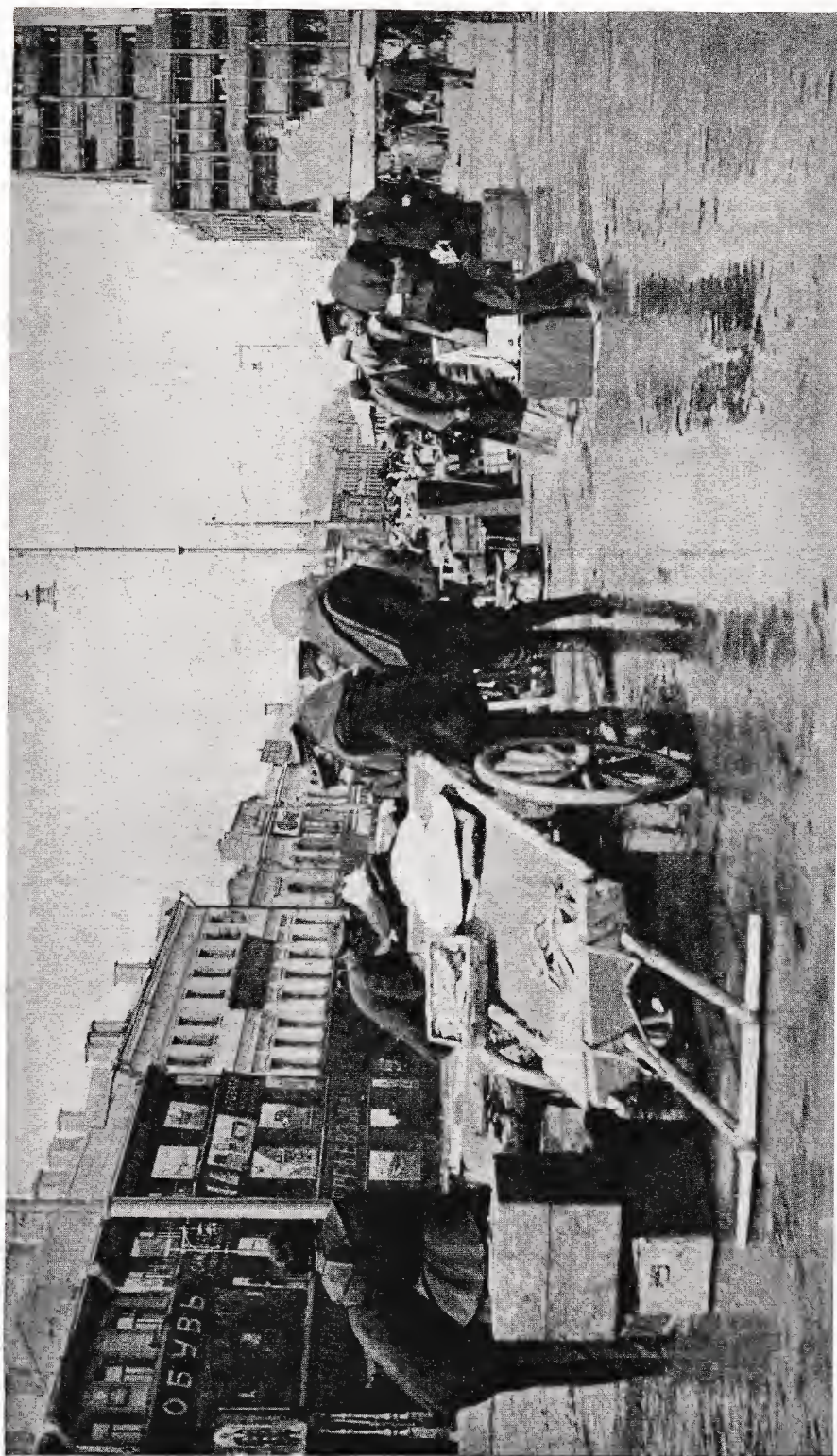
held in leash. They are always at one extreme or the other.

They believe readily the most fantastic stories. They indulge their tastes, passions, and fancies with a cheery disregard of consequence that leaves stolid Britons gasping. They have little sense either of time or of exact statement. Their acts follow their feelings, not any process of reasoning. To fight against impulse they consider wrong; it deforms the soul. "Do whatever you feel inclined to do." That is their creed.

vodka of the cheapest, most poisonous description, if they can only afford a few pence for their dissipation.

The tziganes, or gypsies, provided a most popular form of entertainment for those who had dined well and wanted some diversion more thrilling than opera, ballet, play, or variety performance. Everyone tried the gypsies as an experiment. Many found them fascinating and became devotees. The music they make is to the non-Russian ear usually monotonous, even annoying.





#### HAWKERS AND HUCKSTERS RETAILING SMALL WARES ON A RAIN-DRENCHED MARKET PLACE OF MOSCOW

In the extreme heat of summer and Arctic cold of winter Moscow's street trade has been famous for its activity. The traders—mostly drawn from the poorer merchant class, the bulk of them illiterate, and able to make out their calculations only with the help of their fingers and the abacus, or reckoning table with sliding balls, the inevitable companion of the peasant shopkeeper—appeared to be entirely indifferent to all personal comforts, content to stand the livelong day by their stalls or to tramp around with their wares slung over arm and shoulder, until night had driven all possible customers from the streets

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*



They sit in a circle with a guitar player in the centre, who acts as conductor. To every song there is a solo part and a chorus. They do not sing particularly well, but there is a wild, haunting quality in their songs which satisfies some craving in the Russian nature. There is some chord in the Russian's imagination which is thrilled by the melodies of the vast steppes that make up so large a part of the country, and he is ready to pay handsomely for it.

The stimulus which the well-to-do found in champagne and gypsy music the peasant and the town artisan or labourer drew from vodka, from songs that he hiccupped out himself, from performances on the balalaika and concertina, from the mechanical melodies of the penny-in-the-slot pianola, melodeon, or gramophone. In the villages vodka was drunk in large quantities

at marriage feasts; at Easter, when the "great fast" came to an end; or when any landowner driving a bargain with the villagers threw in a barrel of spirit to clinch it (and very likely to get better terms than ought to have been given him). Men and women drank together, drank "as if there were no hereafter." But their excesses had the excuse, if it can be called an excuse, of conviviality.

In the towns the drinking was generally no more than a means to an end. The desired end was intoxication: warmth inside, and then forgetfulness. It was common enough to see men go into a dram-shop, buy a tenpenny



PEDLING PRUNES AND FRUIT DRINKS

Ordinarily, there is a good market for dried fruits in Russia, and this young vender is seen also dispensing a drink, a variety of kvass, made from them, and, in former times, probably not innocent of a little vodka to enhance its selling powers

bottle of vodka, the cheap and poisonous kind, knock the neck off, drink it straight away; then, after a hundred yards or so, fall down and lie unconscious. If such a man were in danger, some kindly hand rolled him into safety. There he lay, until he recovered.

The harm done by vodka was largely increased when, towards the end of last century, Count Witte made the distillation and sale of it a government monopoly. He saw in it a source of easy revenue. Why should not the state profit by a popular habit, even though it was a bad one? There was no thought in Count Witte's mind of forcing drink upon the





**ALL-ROUND HANDYMAN**

A once indispensable figure in Russian town life, the dvornik, or yardman, who served as porter and general handyman to the inmates of the houses bordering his yard

nation with the object of drawing more and more revenue from it. But under the bureaucratic system, which smooths away personal responsibility, the agents of the Ministry of Finance were soon engaged in pushing vodka by every means in their power. The number of drink shops steadily increased. The revenue from this source rose from fifty millions to one hundred millions. Drunkenness became a disaster.

By the spring of 1914 the conscience of the nation was stirred and the evil was explained to the Tsar. He was for once well advised, and issued an edict repealing Count Witte's measure and ordering that efforts should be made to fight against the vice of intoxication, "which was diminishing the energy and natural good qualities of the nation."

The outbreak of war made it possible, and indeed necessary, to take a further step in the national interest. The sale of vodka was entirely forbidden. At once the useful consequences of this action were seen. In 1904 General

Kuropatkin had deplored the "drunken mobilisation." He asked the authorities to shut the liquor shops along the route taken by the troops going to the front against Japan. They refused, and the result was that "never before in all history was there presented such an indecent and disgusting picture." In 1914, according to a statement made by General Polivanov while he was Minister for War, recruits and reservists joined the colours in an orderly manner and a self-respecting frame of mind.

Later the benefit which accrued to the population generally from the suppression of drunkenness became apparent in many directions. The savings bank deposits increased fifteen and twenty-fold. In the villages the women and children were better dressed and better fed. Large purchases of farm machinery and implements were made by the peasants. More work was done. Beggars disappeared. Forest fires,



**WHERE THE SAMOVAR REIGNS**

After his tenth cup of hot weak tea, the Moscow merchant has turned his cup upside down on its saucer, signifying that he has finished—for the time being

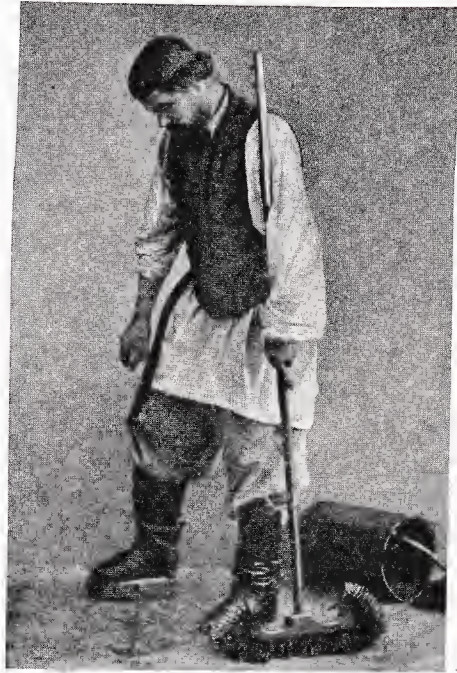


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caused usually by the carelessness or deliberate incendiaryism of drunken men, became fewer in number. The nation grew vastly more prosperous and was able to support more easily than it could have done before Prohibition came into force, the expense of the war.

A good many people tried to find substitutes for vodka—furniture polish, methylated spirit, and the like, but on the whole there was a feeling of gratitude to the Tsar for his Prohibition edict. This was peculiarly Russian. It was not uncommon to hear peasants say: "We know we displeased God and injured our health by getting drunk, but we could not break ourselves of the bad habit. It was necessary to break us of it by force. Now that we cannot get drink, we see that we are much better off."

That illustrates a side of the Russian character which it is important to keep always in mind, and one which it is



POLISHER OF THE PARQUETRY

Most Russian houses have parquet floors, for the care of which it was customary to employ a man who, brush on foot, gave each week a lustrous gloss to the wooden surface



ONE OF THE MULTITUDE

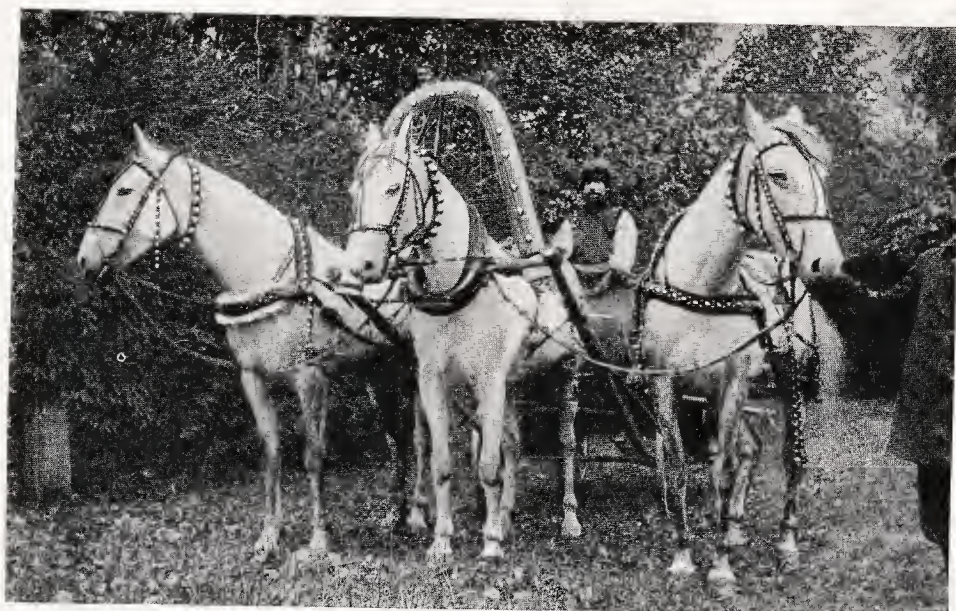
"I was born, I suffer, and I shall die," is his stoical motto, and that of thousands of other, homeless pilgrims; and certainly Russia does not grudge him his death

hard for those who have not lived among them to appreciate. When they do what they know will injure others or themselves, they do it knowing that it is wrong, and knowing that they will be sorry for it afterwards. Their great novelist, Dostoevski, has shown us this strange, childlike duality of mind and tried to explain it. "In all the Russian people," he wrote, "there is not one swindler or scoundrel who does not know that he is mean and vile." Dostoevski suggested that this was the result of the struggle between the Russian nature and its unpropitious surroundings.

Throughout the whole history of Russia we see that the Russian has been at the mercy of all kinds of depraving influences. He has been so abused and tortured that it is a miracle he has preserved the countenance of a man. But he has done more than that, he has preserved his beauty.

The Russian people must not be judged by what they are, but by what they are striving to be. The strong and sacred





#### TROIKA OF A WELL-TO-DO RUSSIAN LAND-PROPRIETOR

The three horses, fine, well-groomed creatures when the photograph was taken, are seen yoked abreast, their silver studded harness adorned with jingling bells. A high arched wooden douga, decorated with silver stars on a sky-blue ground, is borne by the middle horse, which was made to trot rapidly while the horses on each side galloped with their heads turned outwards

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*



#### HOME-MADE SIEVES FOR SALE IN A PROVINCIAL TOWN

Although his tools are primitive, the moujik is wonderfully dexterous in their manipulation, and during the dreary winter season when field labour is out of the question, far from wishing to hibernate, he and his womenfolk were wont to employ their time in making numerous useful articles, such as wooden bowls, spoons, sieves, and agricultural implements for sale in the nearest town

*Photo, Georg Haeckel*





### BACKBONE OF THE ARMY DURING THE TSARIST REGIME

Inured to the life of hardship and endurance which was his in time of peace, the moujik was excellently fitted for the privations and perils which he encountered in warfare. Though his diet was scanty, his shelter—if any—of the poorest nature, his military winter coat but a shabby sheepskin, he was ever stolid and uncomplaining, and endowed with all the qualifications of the true campaigner

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*

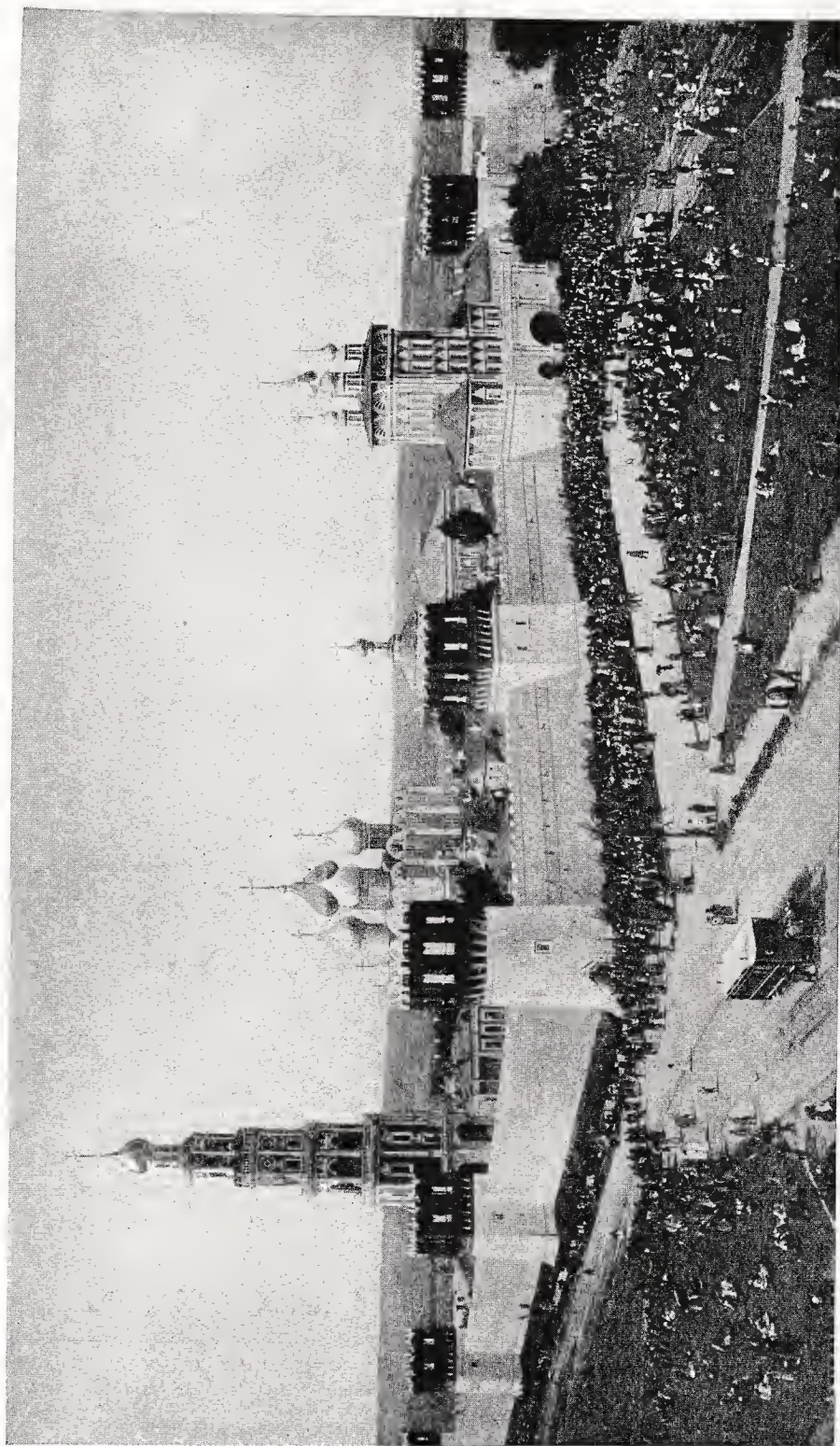


### COUNTRY FOLK MEET IN LEISURED NEIGHBOURLY CONVERSE

Market day in the provincial Russian town sees an influx of peasants from the neighbouring districts. Some are intent on buying goods, others come to dispose of their wares, while many prefer the rôle of onlooker, and stroll about the streets, wrapped warmly in sheepskins, thinking with regret of "the good old times" in the traktir, or public house, when vodka and cheery companionship were plentiful

*Photo, Georg Haeckel*





NOVO DEVITCHI CONVENT: A FAMOUS BUILDING OF GREAT HISTORICAL INTEREST

The Novo Devitchi Convent, lying in the environs of Moscow and facing a long range of the Sparrow Hills, was founded in 1524 to commemorate the reunion of Smolensk with the principality of Moscow. It was the scene of many sanguinary conflicts with the Poles, and was partly burnt down, but was finally restored by Tsar Michael. It comprised several buildings, including a fine cathedral and a lofty bell tower, and is surrounded by a massive wall furnished with towers, battlements, and loopholes. The convent was visited by Napoleon in 1812, and during the retreat of the French only the intrepidity of the nuns saved it from destruction.





# SOLDIER OF THE GREEK CHURCH WHO FELL ON ACTIVE SERVICE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY

The priest of the Greek Church has been ever a familiar figure throughout Russia. Many of these men have played a very gallant rôle in the turbulent times of the past decade, and thousands of them accompanied the troops when on campaign, in many instances the soldiers of the Orthodox faith seeking the blessing of the priest before they would venture to attack the enemy. Nor did the priesthood shirk danger; many a one laid down his life in the thick of the fight, and then, dressed in the vestments of his high office, was laid to rest side by side with his brother soldiers

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*





**SACRED BUILDING IN THE HEART OF A MOSCOW BUSINESS CENTRE**  
The innumerable churches of Moscow have always been a source of unlimited attraction and interest to the stranger. "Forty times forty" is their approximate number, and seen at a distance the face of "Holy Moscow" glows with the splendour of her myriad golden cupolas. These sanctuaries, varying from eathedrals to miniature chapels, are found in all streets and even in busy market places

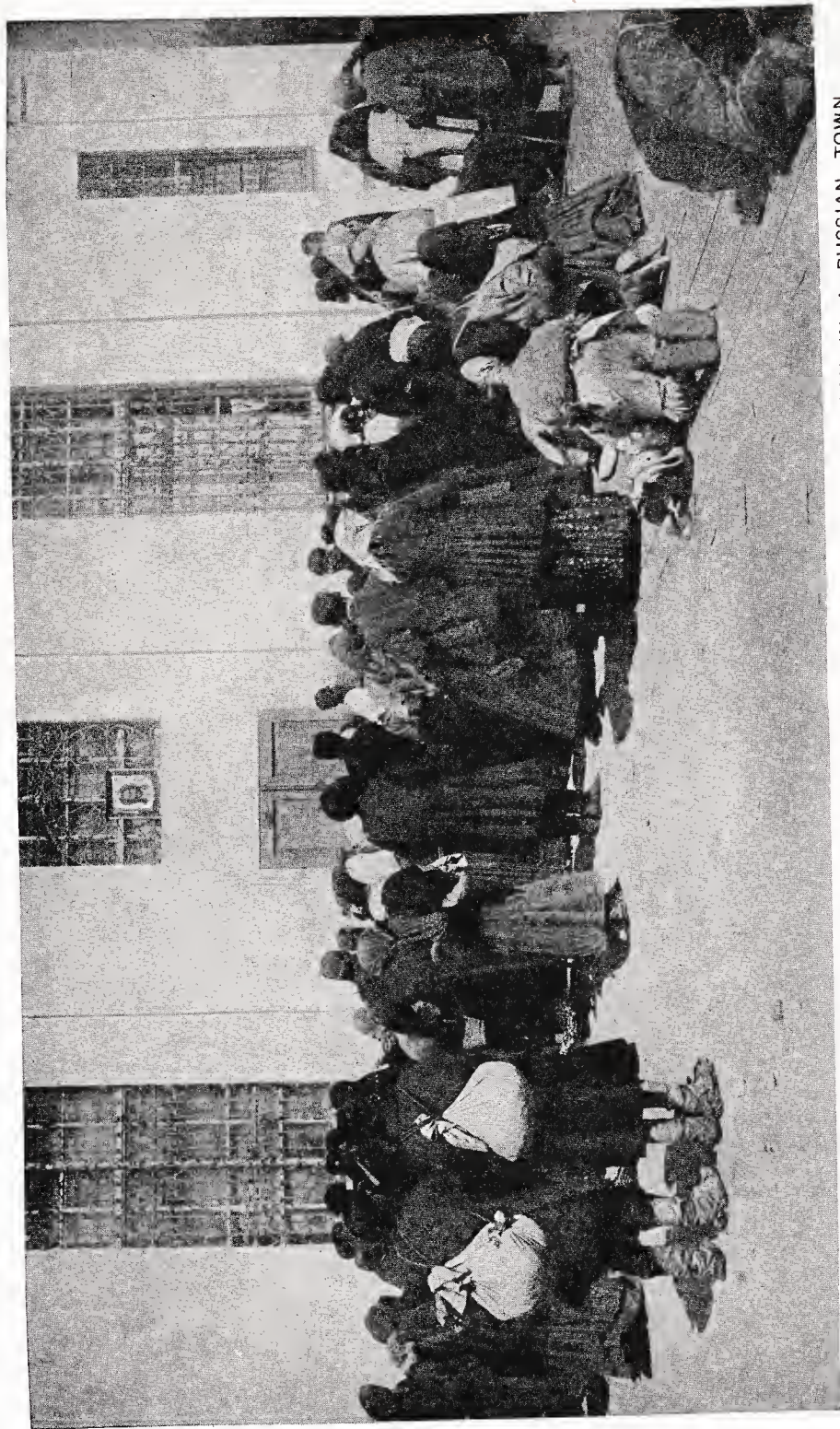
*Photo, Florence Farmborough*





**CATHEDRAL OF S. BASIL, FAMED FOR ITS FANTASTIC ARCHITECTURE**  
Situated on the Red Square at Moscow is the Cathedral of S. Basil. Grotesquely irregular in appearance, this remarkable structure presents a conglomerate mass of minarets, towers, and domes, no two of which resemble each other in colour or design. Tradition reports that the eyes of its architect were put out by Ivan the Terrible in order that it should neither be equalled nor surpassed





# PEASANTS AND WAYFARERS BOWED IN HUMBLE HOMAGE BEFORE A HOLY ICON IN A RUSSIAN TOWN

The religion of the Orthodox Russian enters into all the events, both trivial and important, of his daily life, and the icon, or sacred picture, hung in a corner of his house in the old days, received devout homage. In the streets, churches, wayside chapels, and small shrines—passing before which even a driver of a droshky would cross himself—are numerous icons, and in them and before them a goodly company of humble believers was ever on its knees, making the sign of the Cross repeatedly, giving thanks for mercies received, and praying for forgiveness or for help on the morrow



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ideals which have been their salvation through ages of suffering are deeply rooted in their souls. By these ideals their souls have been endowed with simplicity and honesty, with sincerity, and with a broad receptive good sense.

Do not judge the Russian people by the atrocious deeds of which they have often been guilty, but by the great and holy ideals which they keep before them, even in their depravity.

Now, to most European ears that sounds very much like nonsense. The European mind judges by results. It has more patience with the man who says "Evil be thou my good," and deliberately chooses to do harm, ready to accept the consequences whatever they may be, than with those who commit crimes or follies from sheer weakness of fibre, wishing to keep to the straight path, but unable to resist temptation to turn off it now and then. One who is a determined wrongdoer may change, so the argument runs, and become a good citizen. The really weak, however, can never be relied upon. Whether they do good or evil, they will be a feeble folk, a nuisance to others and a burden to themselves. That is the European attitude. The Russian feeling towards weakness in human nature is altogether different. It is a feeling of pity, of sympathy, of readiness to forgive, "even unto seventy times seven." Far better to have ideals and fall over and over again in reaching towards them than go through life without any.

Some who have observed Russian life and character have doubted whether the great Russian writers, who are the



### MONKS OF THE ORTHODOX GREEK CHURCH

While always wearing the beard and hair long in order to resemble the Christ as closely as possible, the "black" monks, with all their outward display and formal ritual, are more noted for their vices than their virtues

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*

interpreters of it for the rest of the world, really understood it themselves. Turgenev, who lived mostly in France, was reproached during his lifetime with describing it "from a distance" and being out of touch with the people he so closely described.

A Russian commentator on Tolstoy has brushed aside the notion that he knew the soul of the people. "He belongs to the gentry; he can think and feel only as a gentleman, not as a peasant." Gogol used to complain that he could not get "local colour" for his books, and he begged his friends to send him hints,



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### AN IMPORTUNATE VAGRANT

This vagrant monk has found begging "for the love of God" remunerative; the "bulge" in his costume indicating that charitable Russia had turned no deaf ear to his prayers

observations, anecdotes. There certainly was a great gulf fixed between the educated, cosmopolitan, easy-living Russian of the towns and the mass of the people, toiling always, mostly unable to read or write (that has changed lately; now they mostly can read and write); enslaved by superstition. There was not the same tie which there has always been in England, and to a certain extent in France, between the owner of broad lands and the tillers of the soil. Many Russian villages have no persons of education living in or near them, for it may frequently happen that the priest is as ignorant and as superstitious as his parishioners. Whether he can rightly be called educated or no, he is not likely

to have much influence. There have been and there are priests of the Russian Orthodox Church as worthy of respect and admiration as any in the world. But in general they are looked upon rather as conjurers than as spiritual guides.

The peasant believes that unless the blessing of the Church upon children in baptism, upon marriage, and in the hour of death, is sought and paid for something unpleasant will happen—he is not clear what. The priest must therefore be employed on these and certain other occasions. A new house, for example, must be blessed. Holy water must be sprinkled in every corner of every room. The same rite is necessary when a new shop or office is occupied. And each year this must be



### BOUND FOR A DISTANT SHRINE

He limps through life on blistered feet, pledged to the Open Road, but is happy enough in his restless existence, for the pilgrim's heart is strong and his faith steadfast

*Photos, Florence Farmborough*





#### FOLLOWING THE PRIEST ON HIS HOUSE TO HOUSE VISIT

During the hot months in Russia, as in other countries, those who could afford it migrated from the towns to their country houses. This exodus began about the end of May, and was the signal for the local priests to form a great procession with banners and icons and visit the newcomers in each house, blessing their sojourn there. For the villagers this was the great event of their year

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*

repeated. The fees demanded by the priest must be paid without grumbling, like insurance premiums. But the idea that the exercise of these powers entitles the priest to reverence is foreign to the peasant mind. In his vestments he is gifted with mysterious magic, but at other times he is a mere man.

Certainly the people were attached to their Church services, and with good reason. On the spectacular side they are mightily impressive. The music is designed to stir emotion, and even in remote villages may do so with an irresistible force. Its deep and rolling harmonies, the haunting beauty of the responses in the Litany, the unaccompanied men's voices, now almost fierce in their vigour, now sinking to a melodious murmur, leave on the imagination ineffaceable impressions. Among the most vivid memories which

one brings away from Russia must be counted the onion spires, green for the most part, but sometimes of many colours, as on the Church of S. Boris in Moscow and its replica in Petrograd, with slender chains connecting the crosses which surmount them; the Church festivals—Easter, with its midnight Mass and salutation, "Christ is risen"; Christmas, which brings out little forests of trees in the public squares to the delight of all children; the breaking of the fasts which must be kept in June and August; the sound of church bells from which one was never far away, solemn big bells, booming away in the bass, tenor bells with heady high notes, and the shrill, jingling, crazy little bells; crowded churches wreathed in the fumes of incense and oppressive with the smell of grease, every worshipper holding a



## RUSSIA & THE RUSSIANS

candle which most allow to gutter and to drop its fatness on the clothes of the unwary ; religious processions, the Krestni Khod, for instance (the Way of the Cross) in which famous icons (sacred pictures) and banners of rich beauty are followed by many thousands of men and women, singing as they go.

Whether the observances of the Orthodox communion will be so usual now that the link between Church and

only its leaders to thank. They made religion the servant of autocracy. They set their faces perversely against wise modifications of the system which might have avoided any violent break. Pobiedonostzev, who was so long Procurator of the Holy Synod, an office which made its holder, though a layman, the real head of the Church, held to his medieval views with cynical energy, and by damming back the waters of



### LONELY WOMEN PILGRIMS OF THE RUSSIAN HIGH ROAD

Women have figured conspicuously among the pilgrims traversing the Russian countryside ; many of them, like these White Russians bound for the Petcherskaya Lavra, at Kiev, being mothers of large families who, between seed time and harvest, seek the solitudes of the road and tramp on and on for days and weeks until, their devotion rewarded, they arrive at the Mecca of their pilgrimage

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*

State is broken, it is hard to say. Already the practice of putting up icons in rooms as a protection against evil spirits and as a reminder to all who come in to cross themselves on entering, and on leaving also, has been dropped in Government offices and in many private houses. Already there is a strong tendency to regard the Church as part of the old system which the Revolution swept away. For this the Church has

modern thought made disaster inevitable. Peterim, Archbishop of Petrograd, during the last days of the Tsardom, was one of the shameless gang that surrounded Rasputin. It was this as much as anything that lowered the Church in the estimation of the people. They felt the disgrace of the Rasputin scandal. They knew that he was a dissolute rascal, and all over the country his ascendancy was talked about and





#### IN THE PENAL SETTLEMENT OF SINNING RUSSIAN CLERGY

Not far from the remote village of Klimovo, in the Province of Vologda, exists a remarkable religious community, known as the Brotherhood of Ten, composed of priests who have betrayed their trust. Ten well-built chalets standing in a pine forest shelter these priestly criminals who are doing penance for almost every imaginable crime. The heads of the community wear curious medieval cloaks



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**GIRL WORKERS OF A MOSCOW DISTRICT**

They took up life's duties at an early age, and can guide the harrow, sow and reap the rye, make bread, butter, and cheese curds, for youth and health are theirs in abundance, and carry them smiling through the longest of working days

exaggerated, lying stories to the discredit of the Empress were told, and the authorities were blamed for not exposing and turning him out.

Here the indecision of the Russian character, which made it an agony even for men bred up in public business to make up their minds, brought misfortune upon the race. If the principal ministers had told the Tsar plainly what they said to each other, and to many besides, about the dangerous course affairs were taking, the danger might have been averted.

Much of the evil of the old system lay in the ridiculous reverence paid to the Sovereign. The more simple-minded of the courtiers and officials experienced

a genuine awe in the presence of "the Lord's anointed." The others cynically simulated a respect which they were far from feeling. There was thus an Eastern atmosphere at Court, in which what was called Byzantinism flourished, that is to say, government by intrigue, mostly personal intrigue.

A perpetual struggle went on for the control of the machinery of administration, engaged in, not so much by the actual ministers and those who stood for the Tsar's advisers in the public eye, as by a little group of men who pulled the strings unseen, and appointed or dismissed ministers as children set up and knock down ninepins.

Until the Great War the mass of the people knew nothing of the methods of their rulers. They had a vague notion that the Tsar was endowed with superhuman powers, and

that he governed in person. It was impossible for peasants who had never been in a city to understand the complication of the Government machine. The educated class, the intelligentsia, consisting mainly of those who had been through university courses, who had travelled, who either had private means or earned their living by the practice of medicine or law, saw clearly enough both the absurd and the perilous side of the old system. They laughed at it and stormed at it in private, but they knew that to take any part in public agitation would bring them into conflict with the secret police. The sequel to this would probably have been an order to leave for Siberia within



# REAL RUSSIA

## *The Land of the Moujiks*



*Resplendent in every detail is the Russian boyarski costume, crowned by the handsome kokoshnik—a high tiara set with many beautiful gems*

Photo, Venera, Moscow





*Though the high-road of life be rugged and stone-strewn, the moujik plods on. If the wheel fails him, he will make headway with a sleigh*





*Religion is life to many a poor woman of Russia, and whispered prayer during the daily round brings comfort and courage under all adversity*





*Glittering jewels and brocades are not hers, yet the peasant woman of Rvazan in her gay cottons presents a dainty picture to the artist eye*

Photo, Florence Farmborough





*In coloured sarafan she moves among a sea of flowers, for the fields are decked with a beauty incomparable when springtime comes to Russia*

Photo, Florence Farnborough





*Woodman by trade, hunter by nature, this Russian moujik is familiar with the wild life of the impenetrable forest, and his alert ear is strained to catch the sound that shall disclose the proximity of the much-desired prey*

Photo, P. Brownlow Hughes





*Before the Soviet war against religion, exquisitely jewelled icons, escorted by priests and worthy nuns, were brought to bless the Russian households. To "Holy Russia" the sacred icon was ever "God in the midst"*

Photo, Florence Farmborough





*In her desperate struggle against Germany, Russia welcomed every arm that could handle a rifle. Many a boy volunteer played a man's rôle*

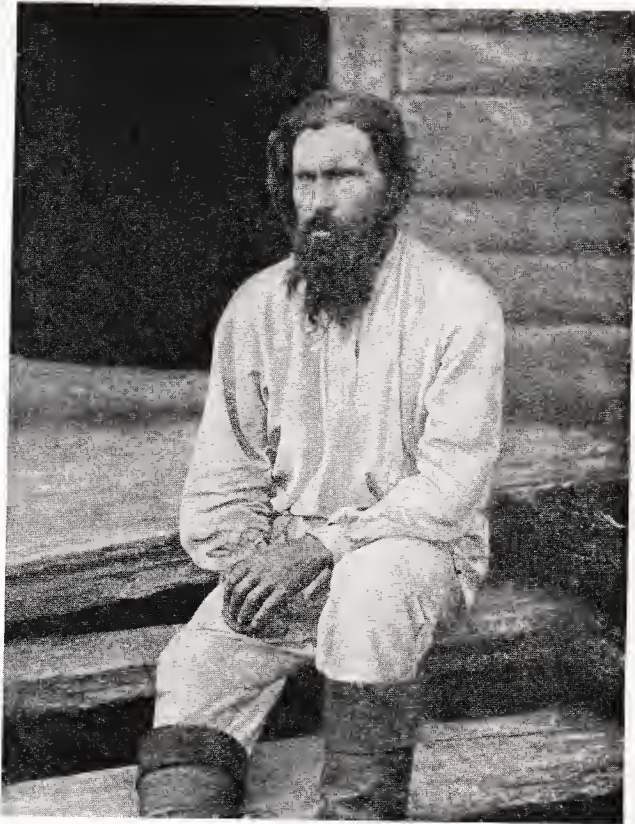
Photo, Florence Farmborough



a period of time scarcely long enough, in the most favourable conditions, to make the necessary preparations, and sometimes so short as to prevent any arrangements at all from being made.

Apart from the annoyance of a forced uprooting, however, and the hardship of being separated from parents or friends who were too old to follow, exile to Siberia was not a severe punishment for political recalcitrance. It had for a long time lost its terrors. Political exiles found in Siberian cities a society far more active-minded than that which they had left behind. They could, as a rule, earn their living without difficulty. Siberia is another Canada. It is immensely rich in possibilities, and has already been developed on its agricultural and mining sides in such energetic fashion as to bring prosperity to its population. The only prisoners who during this century worked in the mines or were otherwise in penal servitude in Siberia were criminals sentenced for serious offences, and they were sent away by train, not in gangs condemned to make the long journey on foot. The political exiles, except for reporting themselves to the police, and not being allowed to return to Russia, were free, and they often preferred to stay where they were upon the expiration of their sentences.

That the Russian bureaucracy was improved by the inflow of Western ideas among the people, especially among the intelligentsia, was shown by the mitigation of the cruelties which not so very long ago attended sentences



#### KINDLY QUALITIES SURVIVE STAGNATION

Simple life in the Russian backwoods does not tend to mental development, and this gentle giant possesses little more than a child's brain, but the thoughtful face at least suggests his heart's regret that education and enlightenment have passed him by

of exile to the then barren and frozen land, where the summer lasted a few weeks only, and where civilization had hardly set its mark. It was common to hear the intelligentsia ridiculed, even by those who were not in sympathy with bureaucratic methods, but their efforts to let in light upon places which the Government tried to keep dark, and their appeal from Byzantinism to the enlightened opinion of Europe and America, certainly had a useful effect.

They might even have been able to bring about a change of system without violent revolution and bloodshed, if the Tsardom had survived the Great War. When, hastened by the incompetence and the imbecility of those who were supposed to be managing the nation's





NEVSKY PROSPEKT, PETROGRAD'S LONGEST, MOST FASHIONABLE, AND MOST BLOOD-STAINED STREET

To dwellers in and visitors to the capital, the Nevsky was to Petrograd what Piccadilly is to London, or Fifth Avenue to New York. It is one hundred and fifteen feet in width and nearly three miles long, running from the Admiralty to the Znamenskaya Square. To the right-hand side of this photograph is a French café and the sign of the Siberian Bank. To this, then, the habitual thoroughfare of all that they hated, came the crowd in the summer of 1917, shouting for bread and white hot for murder, the crowd that has now spread throughout Russia and calls itself "Bolsheviks."



## RUSSIA & THE RUSSIANS

affairs, revolution broke out as a people's movement, the intelligentsia were not ready for it. It seems doubtful, when one looks back, whether the intelligentsia ever would have been ready. It was composed almost entirely of those who enjoyed dreaming about a perfect state and who, through no fault of their own, had no experience of practical endeavour in the political sphere. Outside the hierarchy of officials there was no opportunity to gain such experience save in the Zemstvos and town councils. The latter were filled up chiefly by merchants who looked after their own interests, and offered no attraction to the earnest reformer. The Zemstvos, on the contrary, gave opportunity for hard and valuable public work, and served as an excellent training-ground for men who hoped later to become politicians of the Western type.

### Bureaucracy and the Zemstvos

Each province had its Zemstvo or provincial council, and there were district councils as well. The councillors were elected; as a rule, men of public spirit and ability were chosen. The doctors who worked for the Zemstvos were a fine body of self-sacrificing and energetic friends of the people. When the war revealed the wretched unfitness for their duties of almost all who were in high office in Russia, the Zemstvos asked to be allowed to take part in the national effort. The bureaucracy did its best to keep them out, accusing them of wanting to get hold of the machinery of government with the object of altering it in a democratic sense. They were told that national affairs were none of their business; these should be left to the official class.

It was, however, found impossible to refuse their aid, and the work they did was of the utmost value. When a prime minister had to be appointed in the first days of the Revolution, the choice fell upon Prince Lvov, who had

been at the head of the Union of Zemstvos and had proved himself a very capable business man. His chief assistant in the Union offices was made Minister of the Interior. The Minister of Agriculture was M. Shingarev, for many years a Zemstvo doctor; from that he had worked his way into the Duma.

### Fatal Results of Official Ineptitude

But while the new ministers were most of them capable and energetic, their lack of experience in governing became soon fatally noticeable. There were good speakers among them, but the ability of the new rulers was, for the most part, of the council chamber and business office order. They could explain measures and justify courses of action as they sat at a table, but they had had no experience of addressing mobs. It was Kerensky's power of moving crowds of uneducated men to agreement with whatever he said that accounted for his becoming prime minister in succession to Prince Lvov.

A Russian crowd is more susceptible to oratory than any I know, except a Mexican crowd. They can be swayed in any direction if the orator is sufficiently passionate and wordy. They can be swayed in opposite directions within a few minutes. Russians are apt to be of the same opinion as the last person who happens to have been talking to them. They have not room in their heads for more than one thought at a time.

### Problem of the Russian Character

If that be borne in mind, a great deal that is puzzling in the character of the Russian will become plain. His supposed "untrustworthiness," for example, has no deceit in it, as the term is understood elsewhere. It is merely instability; not shiftiness of moral nature so much as shiftiness of opinion. It is true that the result is the same whichever explanation be applied.

The Russian troops who fought under British officers for a time against the





#### RUSSIAN YOUTH UNDER THE LURE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS

It was once observed that "when the Russian was refined he was very, very refined, and when he was uncultured he was barbaric." Certainly refinement and culture have ever characterized members of the Russian intelligentsia, who, after careful instruction in finely regulated schools and universities, not infrequently continued intellectual pursuits throughout the rest of their lives

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*



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Bolshevist forces and then decided to join the Bolsheviks could not be blamed for deliberate treachery. They changed their minds and could only see the advantage of changing their allegiance. They did not stop to consider that they were betraying those who had come to help them, and condemning many of them to lose their lives. The thought of fighting with their countrymen instead of against them filled their heads. There was no room for any other thought.

Even the educated Russian will promise anything, with every intention of fulfilling his promises, but he cannot be relied upon to fulfil them. Either he forgets or else he says to himself: "Why should I put myself out, after all? I was a fool to promise. There was no need. There is no need now to do anything." So nothing is done.

The same unreliability appears in the conduct of Russian juries. In a case where an accused person had been found guilty of a disgraceful offence, he was recommended to merey. One of the jurymen was asked what excuse there could possibly be for such a criminal. He replied: "I am not quite sure that he was guilty." Probably he had a defective notion of what extenuating circumstances were.

Here is another illuminating verdict of a Russian jury. A peasant who was proved beyond doubt to have set fire to a house was acquitted. The foreman told the owner of the house that they would have found the prisoner guilty if the sentence had been two years, but they knew that he would be sent to penal servitude for six years. This they considered excessive, and also it was such a fine day! How could they send a man to penal servitude when the sun shone so warmly? Two years afterwards the owner of the house returned after an absence to the village near which his house was. He was met by a deputation of peasants who welcomed him and congratulated him on the result of the trial two years before. He had been saved from sin, they told him.

The punishment of criminals was not the business of man, but of God. If he had got the incendiary sent to prison, he would have offended against God. God, in the meantime, had done justice. The criminal had come to a bad end!

Thus the law, which was less severe than the English, was made more lenient



PERIPATETIC LOCKSMITH

Licensed to trade in the streets, as his metal registration plate shows, he goes along, his clinking, jangling assortment of keys and padlocks advertising his coming

by the indulgent feelings of jurymen. For murder the usual penalty was twelve years' penal servitude. The death sentence was fairly often passed, however, for stirring up trouble in prison, escaping from prison, or assaulting prison warders. Fraud was lightly punished. To some juries a swindle seemed a commendably clever trick;



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others laughed at it as a good joke. The most impartial and sensible justice was meted out by the magistrates who tried simple cases in the police courts. They heard each party speak in person. They examined them patiently and mostly with good temper. No lawyers were permitted to intervene. Often the magistrate was quite a young man, for the Law in Russia was entered in the same way as the Civil Service, and those who were some day to be judges had to begin by dealing with small disputes in the Courts of First Instance. But young as they were, the people who appeared before them seem to have had confidence in them and their decisions were admitted to be generally sound.

The peasants, despite their simplicity in some directions, are shrewd and skilful in many others. They work far better in groups than as individuals. This is due no doubt to the communal life they have lived in the past. Long ago, before they were made serfs, they had local

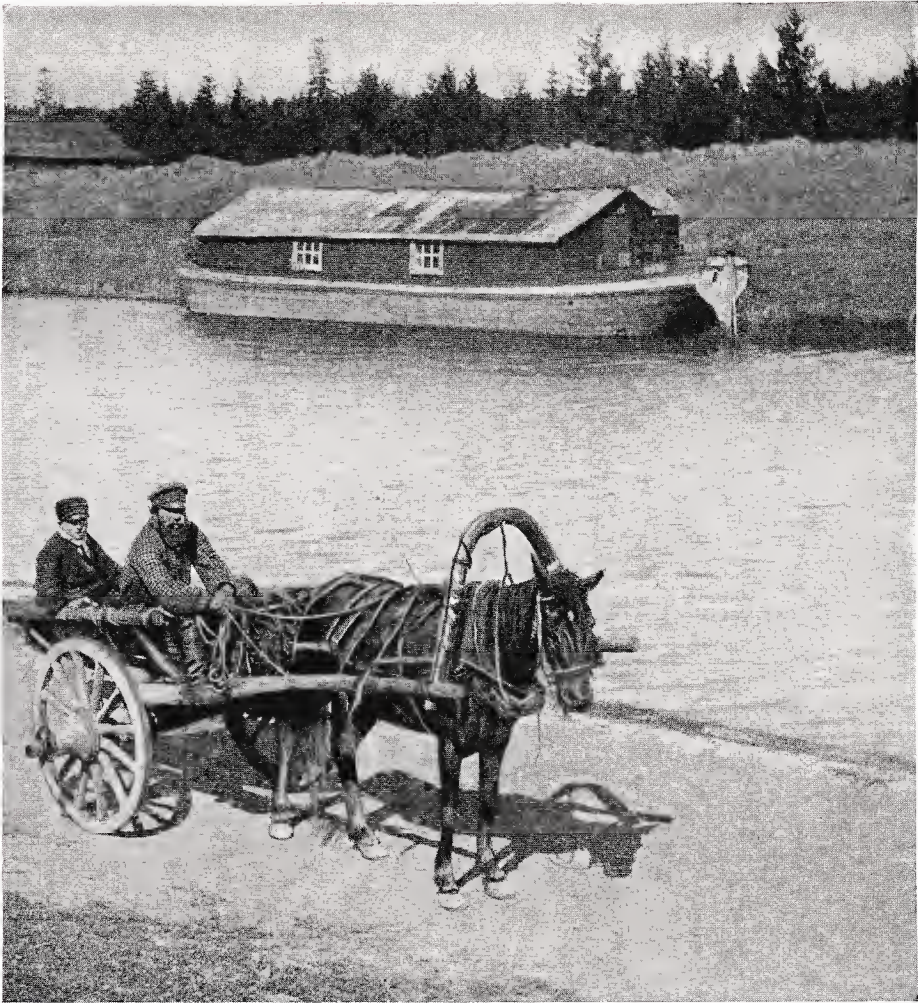
self-government in a most complete and interesting form. The unit was the village. The villagers chose their mayor (as they do still) who, with a council of inhabitants to assist him, managed their affairs. The influence of that ancient system is seen in the Russian habit of choosing a leader or foreman to give directions and obeying him gladly.

If only three men are employed on some job, they will appoint one the foreman, the other two will take their instructions from him. It saves them the trouble of thinking for themselves. They get rid of responsibility. The *artel*, or mutual guarantee society, is an institution peculiar to Russia. Some of them have a large membership, but most are limited to men working at a particular trade or occupation in a particular spot. Thus the porters on railway stations have an *artel*, so do the bank messengers, so do the artisans in towns. The society is liable for any property stolen or damaged by any of its members.



**BLOCK ICE FROM THE NEVA FOR COLD STORAGE IN PETROGRAD**  
Russian summers in the capital are often very hot, and in the winter, which here lasts about five months, advantage is taken of the frozen river to hack from it great blocks of ice. Most Russian houses, whether in town or country, have either an ice cellar or an ice cupboard in which to preserve the food during the burning days of July and August





ROUGH CARTAGE ON THE CANAL TOW-PATH NEAR PETROGRAD

One of the best-known characteristics of Russian horse-drawn vehicles is the huge yoke that arches itself over the animal's neck. This is called a "douga," and, according to the quality of the equipage, so it is ornamented. The one seen here is but modestly decorated as befits a poor moujik, but some of his richer neighbours like to have theirs painted in bright colours

Sometimes it accepts contracts for work to be done and shares out the payment.

Now the word *artel* is used for the cooperative unions which have so large a membership all over Russia. The cooperative movement was taken up readily; some estimates put the numbers who benefit by it, enrolled in the unions, as high as twenty millions. Here, again, the Russian preference for acting in common came into play.

Sometimes still may be seen an *artel* of builders cutting down trees, fashioning logs and planks, and building peasant houses. The peasant is very clever in

his use of the axe. He can do everything with it, plane and ornament, as well as swing it for tree-felling; "even shave himself with it," village jokers say. Using their axes only, three or four men will in less than a week construct a house and have it ready for the occupants to enter and live in.

Through the winter, when all that can be done is to feed the cattle, cut wood for firing, bring in water, and long for spring, the peasants in many parts of the country spend their time in making toys. Here, again, they show ingenuity and humour. The toys are

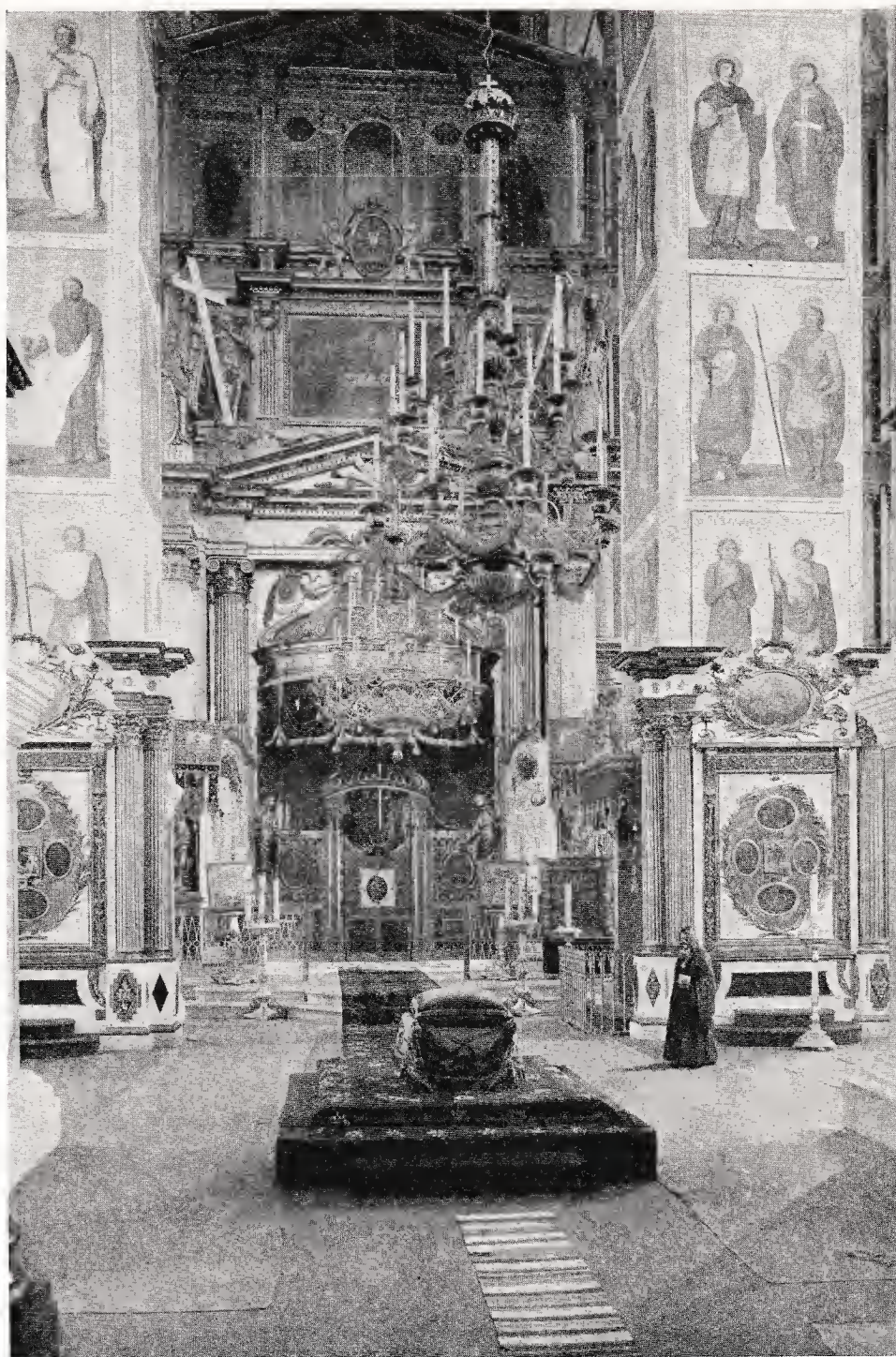




#### OLD AGE HASTENED BY A FULL MEASURE OF LIFE'S BITTERNESS

After youth has passed the Russian peasant woman is seldom of a prepossessing appearance. Strenuous work in the fields and arduous home duties connected with the little izba where she, her husband, a large family of children, and perhaps several relatives, house together in cramped and unsanitary conditions, tell on her rapidly, ageing her irretrievably and often souring a naturally sweet disposition



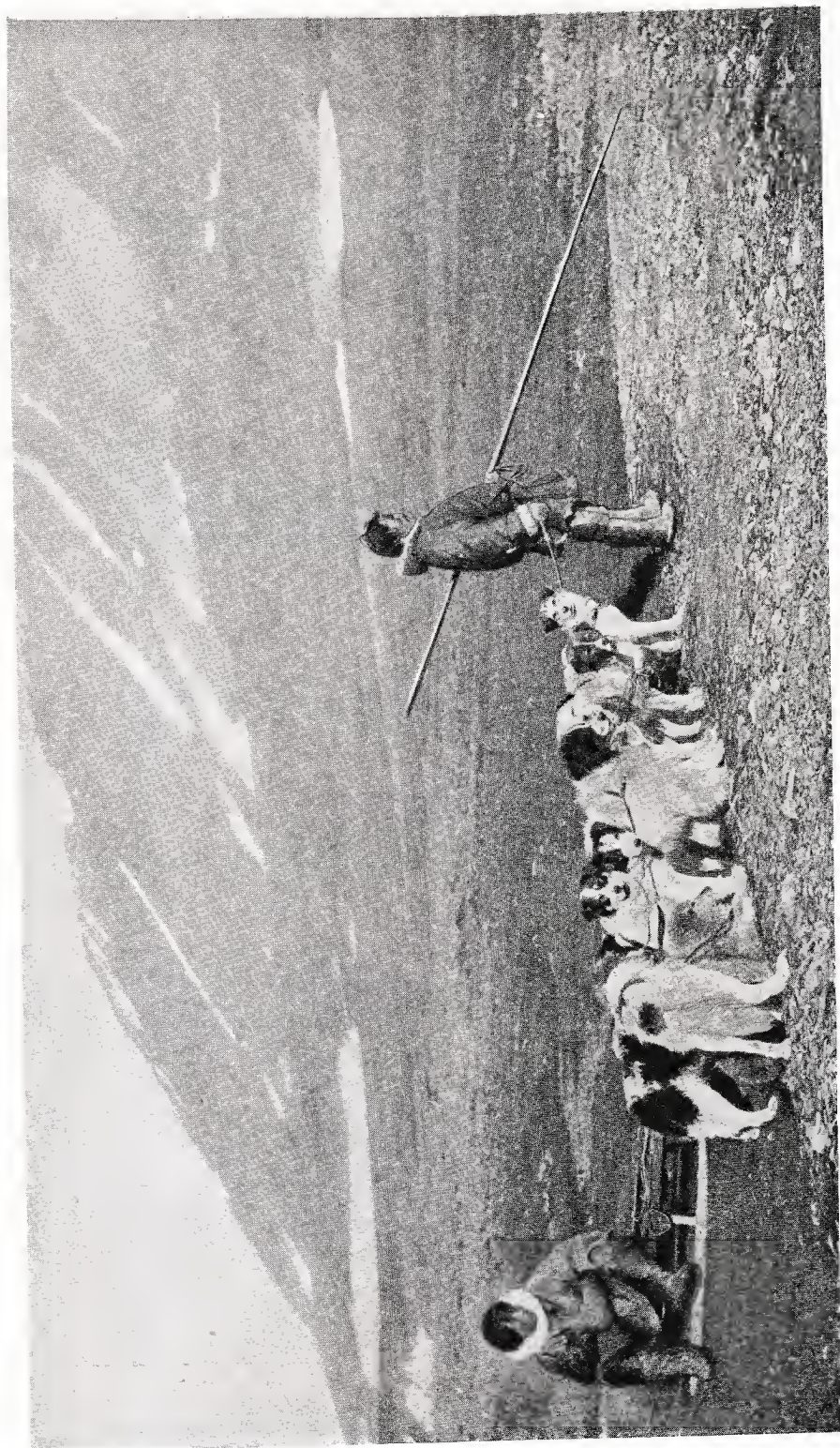


#### INTERIOR OF A GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH IN RUSSIA

On all sides a profusion of gaudy and fantastic detail, painted in all the colours of the rainbow, meets the eye, but the screen which separates the Holy of Holies—in which no one save the priest may enter—is massed with sacred symbolism of an exceedingly ornate splendour. The art of Byzantine decoration would appear to reach the zenith of perfection in the interior of a Greek Orthodox Church

*Photo, P. Brownlow Hughes*





LAPP COURIERS WITH THE MURMANSK MAIL BEFORE A BARRIER OF THE LONE WHITE NORTH

During the long months when the White Sea and its enclosing shores are in the frozen grip of winter, the ship gives place to the sleigh. From ice-bound Archangel fur-clad Laplanders set out over the congealed waters with the post for Murmansk, a town far over the mountains of the Kola Peninsula on an arm of the Arctic Ocean. The snow that is seen lying on the steep slopes, filling up cranny and crevice, gives a false effect of smoothness to their appearance

*Photo, P. Brownlow Hughes*





REINDEER SLEIGHS THAT MOVE LIGHTLY OVER THE DVINA WHEN WINTER COMES TO ARCHANGEL

Besides the winter sleigh traffic on the White Sea, there is considerable activity on the frozen surface of the great River Dvina that finds its way there by five mouths, near Archangel. This is the Northern Dvina as distinguished from the Western Dvina further south. Over the ice move the swift-footed reindeer, bells tinkling and antlers nodding, and these picturesque creatures, together with the drivers' costume, make the old Christmas stories of Santa Claus come true. The long poles in the drivers' hands, also seen in the opposite page, serve for whips

*Photo, P. Brownlow Hughes*





#### MAKING THE MOST OF THINGS IN TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES

The Karelían housewife is an able-bodied person, as she needs must be in a bleak and cheerless climate which demands much physical effort and energy before even the simple necessities and comforts of life can be obtained. Arduous out of door labour falls to her lot, but home duties are not overlooked, and, in ordinary times, the family pot never lacks nourishing buckwheat kasha for her man and family





#### RAGS AND TATTERS OF POVERTY-STRICKEN RUSSIAN CHILDHOOD

In scanty, threadbare garments they run wild about the environs of their village, gathering yagodi—for the woods abound in rich ripe berries of all descriptions—with which they walk long versts to the railway station to dispose of them to kindly travellers. They know that only labour brings bread, and hunger and hardship have already stamped their childish faces with resignation



#### WHERE MINOR DISCOMFORTS DO NOT MATTER

They know no other bed save the floor, or, as winter quarters, the broad shelf of the stove. The straw mattress and bolster are to them the essence of comfort, and though the floor may be engrained with the dust of years, and the "tarakan," or small cockroach, swarms around them, they will sleep as peacefully and dream as happily as pampered children under a silken coverlet



## RUSSIA & THE RUSSIANS



### BABOUSHKA'S PET

"Not a village but has its own ways" is a true saying in Russia, where types, costumes, and customs are as varied as pebbles on the seashore, but on one point all agree—that baby is the most precious possession of the home

made by the men, as a rule, while the women are busy embroidering or making lace. Very beautiful work is done in the peasant izbas, work which is valued more in foreign countries than it is in Russia.

There might be a very profitable as well as a delightful furniture industry built up, but most Russians prefer to send to Vienna for gimcrack chairs, tables, and "suites," and think they are getting better value for their money because their rooms look more showy. In the country and in the towns the peasant class lives in very much the same way. They crowd together in small, overheated rooms for

the sake of warmth in winter, and in the summer live out of doors. They make their principal meal off cabbage soup, with meat in it on special occasions, rye bread, and dry buckwheat porridge which is called kasha. They drink a great deal of tea, with as much sugar as they can afford, enough lumps to fill the glass up if they have plenty, and with a slice of lemon when lemons are not too dear. They also drink kvass, which is made from rye bread, fermented, and bottled. As made by the peasants, it has seldom



### AT A COTTAGE CASEMENT

Massively built, the peasant houses of Karelia resemble ancient strongholds, and the happy face of this housewife would suggest that family affection is not lacking within these time-worn walls

any flavour at all, but it is refreshing in hot weather. Their amusements are dancing and listening to music. In towns the concerts given in parks by military bands are always thronged. In the



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village performances on the balalaika or concertina give a great deal of pleasure. All Russians can dance. It is common in the country to see a party of girls and boys in the summer evenings amusing themselves by tripping in the roadway. They go through figures something like those of old English country dances, and then perhaps there will be individual efforts, which are always immensely energetic and often graceful.

The ballet, which is the one distinctively Russian form of theatrical art, has its roots in the national dances. It was artificially kept alive by payments from the Emperor's purse for the training of dancers, but it was always well supported by the more fashionable theatregoers. The ballet nights, two a week, were sure to find the Imperial Theatres in Petrograd and Moscow filled with their largest audiences. And, simultaneously, all over the country villagers sat round watching dancers, soldiers in their camps and



### COY KARELIAN CHILDHOOD

In a village of Karelia dwells this fair-haired baby girl—a typical young Russian of the North, and the sunshine and pride of a humble moujik home



### STOICISM OF THE PEASANTRY

In Russia the thoughts of old age are long, long thoughts, but she reviews her seventy summers, fraught with countless sorrows, almost callously, indifferent to pleasure or pain

barracks gathered in rings, and kept time by clapping hands for the performers in the centre. Thus the world of fashion and the mass of the people had a taste in common and the ballet could be called a national art.

Opera is another form of entertainment which gave pleasure to all classes. In Petrograd there was a People's Palace, built by the Tsar Nicholas II., where the famous operas, Russian and foreign, could be heard for a few pence, and sometimes famous singers, too. The best Russian plays were acted here as well, and thoroughly appreciated. Indeed, the Russians, notwithstanding their backwardness in the political sense, are well ahead of the other European nations and of the Americans in the sphere of art. They love colour and melody and movement. They take an intuitive delight in beauty, though, when you see their homes, this is a fact that is sometimes hard to believe.

Plays and acting in Russia are both very good and very bad. At the Art Theatre in Moscow and at one or two theatres in Petrograd the performances





#### PARTY OF PICTURESQUE PRIZEWINNERS IN A RUSSIAN NATIONAL COSTUME COMPETITION

Each garbed in the characteristic costume of her particular province, these peasant girls are the pick of a large company of country folk who have donned the attire peculiar to their respective localities and assembled at Vyatka as candidates for the prizes in a national costume competition. Despite the deeds of violence which have laid waste the countryside and destroyed the peace of Russia, Russian peasant women have not desisted from their homely pursuits, and, in the midst of a world seething with chaotic strife, simply and tranquilly engage in such village industries as the unsettled conditions will allow





GROUP OF HARDY YOUNG TAMBOV LAND-WOMEN PLEDGED TO THE RUSSIAN SOIL

Little over sixty years ago the fathers and grandfathers of these finely built peasants were bowed under the heavy yoke of serfdom. Regarded as simple beasts of burden whose duty it was to perform a certain amount of manual labour, their condition was little better than that of the African slave. Though emancipation, introduced by Alexander II. in 1861, vastly improved the lives of some ten million Russian peasants, it did not destroy their affection for the soil, and among the peasants of the Tambov province there exists a genuine zest for landwork which, in normal times, had its reward in well stocked granaries

*Photo, Lieut.-Col. A. P. Wavell*



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came near perfection. The Art Theatre, in particular, by the cleverness of its company, and even more by the sympathetic skill with which plays were "produced," held easily the first place in the world.

Outside this and a very few other theatres, however, Russian acting was unnatural and amateurish. Good plays were scarce. The commercial managers relied mainly upon translations from French and English farces, or from German dramas. Production was haphazard, scenery poor, and the performers usually over-acted. It was the discipline of the Art Theatre and the State Theatres which made the difference between them and the rest.

Comparing great things with small, we find this same lack of discipline at the root of many features in the Russian character which separate it from the common character of the Western

peoples. Under serfdom the Russians were subject to tyranny, not always harsh, sometimes kindly and paternal, but on the whole inclining to the severe.

The discipline of serfdom was too severe, but when it was abolished, no other kind of discipline took its place. The rule of the officials and the police bore hardly upon anyone who showed himself to be working, or even hoping for a change of system. It was hard upon the poor and lowly at such times as they came into collision with it. But it could not implant in the nation a spirit of discipline (as the German bureaucracy did) for the reason that it was utterly undisciplined itself.

A great part of the time of officials was taken up by intrigues against one another. They had no more respect for authority and order than the mass of the population. They allowed laws to be broken and ordinances to be defied



CULTURED FINGERS OF AN UNCULTURED PEASANTRY

The art of Russian peasant needlework is admirably portrayed in the costumes of these four matrons of Simbirsk. Though their intellect has suffered not a little from the lack of education, their powers of imagination and artistic taste are well developed; and fingers which have never learnt to wield the pen, work out, in coloured silks and cottons, exquisite designs of unparalleled beauty and delicacy





#### HARVEST HOME WITH THE COUNTRY-FOLK OF TAMBOV

Early autumn sees the peasants active in the fields, cutting the corn with sickles, binding it into sheaves, and stacking the sheaves into shocks. Long lines of women and girls, gaily clad in their bright cottons, intersect the wide expanse of golden grain; and among them are many whose fine physique betokens the robust health that usually accompanies life in the open air

*Photo, Lieut.-Col. A. P. Wavell*

so long as they could make something out of it. When permission was applied for to build or make a road or put down water pipes, or construct a factory, there was a scramble for bribes. It was hard to find out all those who felt themselves entitled to share in the distribution. If anyone was forgotten, the whole business was liable to be held up.

Besides this, the conflict between authorities was so tiresome and protracted that it was usual to do the work first and then invite the officials concerned to inspect the plans and the building at the same time. Sometimes improvements would remain

unsanctioned for a very long time. In the Government offices under the Tsars confusion and muddle reigned.

It was a common thing for officials to ask for presents, for cigarettes if they thought nothing more valuable could be extorted, promising to see that the giver's business went through quickly. If an official said to you, "Come, to my house where we can talk more privately," that meant he intended to propose that you should do something handsome for him. When they were well bribed, they put a good deal of energy into earning their money. Without that incentive they scarcely ever





TRANQUIL SCENE OF RUSSIAN RURAL BEAUTY: HARVESTING THE HAY-CROPS ON A COUNTRY ESTATE

Before the Soviet Government abolished private ownership of land the country places were dotted with summer-houses, or datchas, of the town gentry. Many of these estates comprised a fair acreage of arable and forest land, in the midst of which stood the dacha—usually built of wood in simple style, except for the ornamental woodwork of the verandas. Very pleasant were these dwellings, far removed from the turmoil of town life, and surrounded by the ineffable charm of the remote countryside, where nature's exuberant generosity clothed meadow and wood with an unlimited profusion of flower and berry

*Photo, Florence Farnborough*





### CARRYING GIFTS FROM THE FOREST, A NEVER-FAILING FRIEND

From the day he is born and laid in a wooden cradle until the day he dies and is placed in a wooden coffin, the Russian woodsman is surrounded by the influence of the forest. From it he draws his livelihood; his house, platter, and spoon are of wood; wood bakes his bread, warms his home; the tree of the forest is the pivot on which his whole life revolves

*Photo, Georg Haeckel*



### LIGHT HEARTS AND WILLING HANDS IN THE HAY-FIELDS OF RUSSIA

The Russian country is a delight to the eye in harvest time, when the ingathering of the abundant crops, for Russia was one of the world's largest granaries before the Great War, brings numberless workers—clad in the gay colours so dear to the peasant heart—into the fields, there to spend many happy hours wielding sickle and rake amid the delicious scents of warm ripe vegetation

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*



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showed any initiative or enterprise. They had no encouragement to do more than follow the routine of their department, a routine which had very likely been followed for half a century or more.

The lack of discipline in Government offices was not noticeable as a rule in those of private firms. Many of these were German and therefore managed their affairs in an orderly

found necessary in other countries. Sometimes there would be a longer delay than usual; then one discovered that the documents were lying unheeded by the elbow of some clerk whose duty it was to initial or date-stamp them. It was a good plan to follow cheque and cheque-book round, so that each person who handled them could see the owner waiting. This had a marked effect in quickening things up.



EVERYDAY LIFE IN AN IZBA SURROUNDED BY PENURY

The poor hut is little more than a hovel, and of home comfort there is none. In such wretched squalor despair must surely have the upper hand, yet the moujik's pessimism is tempered by thankfulness for the rude roof overhead and the crust of black bread which keeps himself and family alive; and he takes fortune's buffets with an indifference almost dignified in its Oriental fatalism

way. It was amusing in some of the banks to see baskets of buns passed round in the middle of the morning, when glasses of tea were served also, and to watch all the jaws of all the clerks working while they added up columns or made entries in ledgers. But bank business was done in an orderly, if unhasting fashion.

It took the best part of half an hour to cash a cheque. There were precautions to be taken which are not

Another peculiarity in Russian banks is the use of the abacus, an arrangement of wires in a frame with coloured balls on them. The click of these is heard incessantly in Russian places of business. This is one of a number of features in Russian life which suggest the East. It is an Oriental trait, for example, to submit to authority so far as is prudent, and to remain undisciplined wherever authority cannot, or does not think it worth





#### RUSSIAN FORESTER'S QUIVERFUL OF THRIVING YOUNG LIFE

They belong to the forest whence come all their health, wealth, and happiness. The great mortality among town children is unknown in their region, where children spring up and thrive like young trees, versed to the finger-tips in forest lore, and able to track the rabbit to its burrow, the fox to its hole, and to recognize the imprint of wolf and bear in the soft soil



#### HUMBLE HEADQUARTERS OF AFFECTION AND HOSPITALITY

The izba, though often of a small and crude type, is the centre of the moujik's affection. Despite the difficulty to make ends meet, his large-heartedness—an outstanding peasant quality—has suffered not at all, and it has been truly said that "the Russian peasants are the poorest and most illiterate people in Europe, and, withal, the least discontented, the most hospitable, and the most charitable"

*Photos, Florence Farmborough*



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while to, penetrate. The West draws no distinction between the people and the Government. The people make the Government. In a sense they are the Government. The East has not arrived at this yet. The people regard the Government as a force outside them and above them. Therefore in their dealings with it they always keep something back. They preserve a certain independence of thought, and of action too. They will obey the officials if they must, but they will deceive, or even defy them if they can.

That was the Russian attitude towards the Tsardom, and it will probably be the same towards any Government, so far as the mass of the nation is concerned, for a long time to come.

There have been two instants in their recent history when people and

Government might have been united and for a time at any rate kept together as a single unit instead of two opposing interests. One instant was that in which Father Gapon led a crowd to the Winter Palace during the miscalled "Revolution" of 1905-6. That crowd was not in an angry or menacing mood. They hoped the "Little Father" would come out and promise to remove their grievances. Instead the Tsar's advisers ordered troops to fire on the crowd, killed many, and sent the rest away sadly convinced that nothing could be hoped from the old system.

The other moment which, if it had been seized and advantage taken of it, might have spread a feeling of solidarity through all classes, was the moment following the Revolution of 1917. It was a time of "immense and amazing

happiness." So a Russian who lived through those days in Petrograd described it. "The people were happy in a good, sweet way as though each had a solemn light in his soul, as they have during Easter prayer. Everybody looked like that, people of any class, rich or poor. Never did I dream there could be such friendliness in the world. And I thought, 'Something great has really come. Now a new force is in the world.' It was one of those miracles which come to nations only at times of spiritual tension and uplifting joy. 'If only such a mighty force could be guided right,' I thought, 'and spread all over Russia, out to every town and village!'"

To the older nations with their cynical minds, their disillusioned outlook, such a mood seems hardly



FARM HANDS IN AGRICULTURAL KAZAN

Physical perfection is not theirs, but self-reliance, thrift, and industry have stamped them as some of Russia's best workers at home or in the fields; and common sense and shrewd intelligence make up for their lack of schooling





# **BRAWNY BACKWOODSMAN OF NORTHERN RUSSIA AND HIS TIMBER HOME**

In the domestic arrangements of this brawny feller of trees the number of articles not made of wood is reduced to a minimum. An inspection of his hut shows it to be put together, though roughly yet with not a little skill. During the summer the logs he has cut are floated down the northern rivers to Lake Ladoga and so to Petrograd

*Photo, P. Brownlow Hughes*

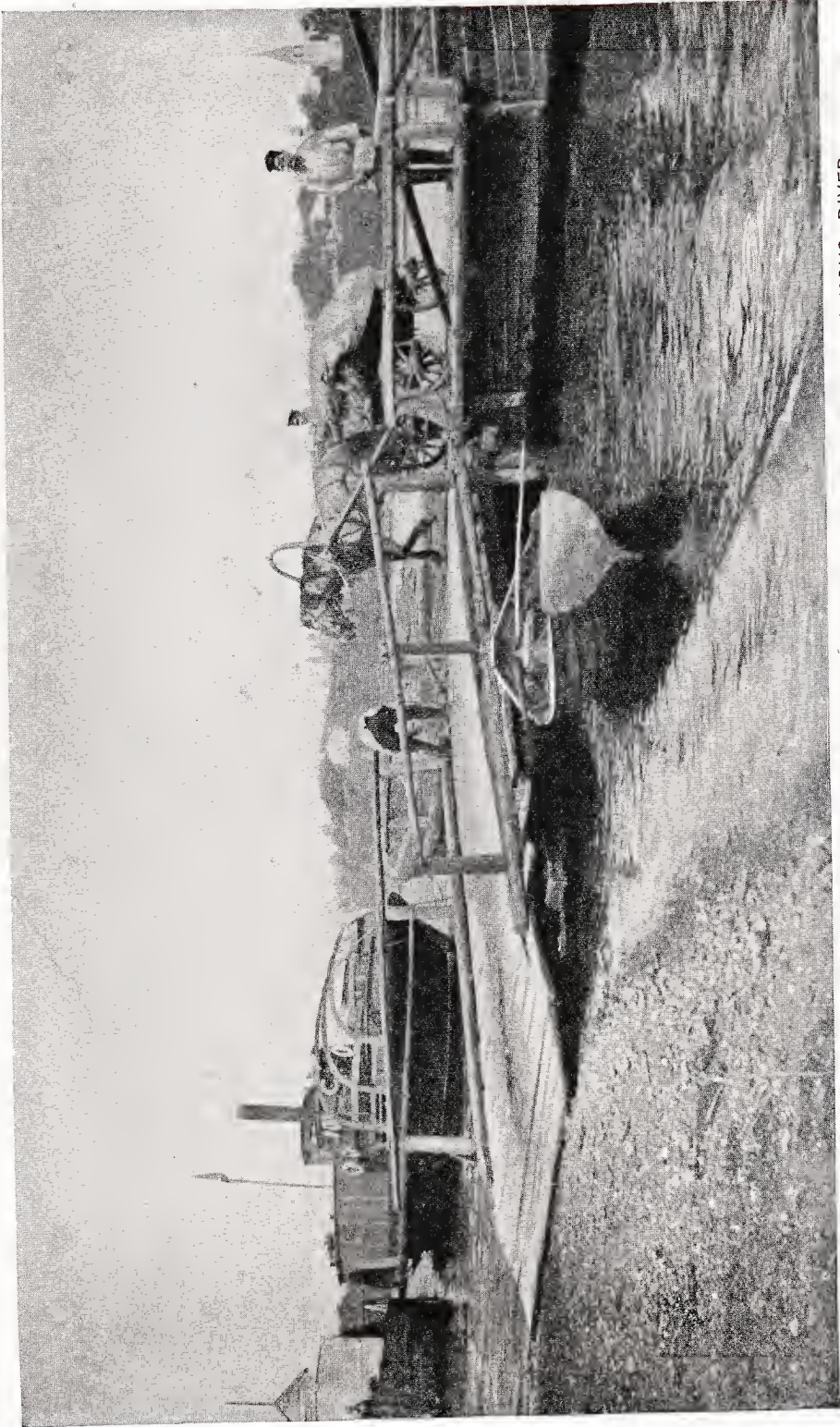
possible. Nobody who knows the Slav temperament will doubt that what this Russian and many others related was true. Whatever the Slav accomplishes must be carried through as the result of spiritual exaltation. Perhaps that is why his excellent beginnings are apt to lead so often to disappointment. Those who are capable of rising to the heights are capable also of sinking to the depths.

The capacity for belief in the idealist nature of the Revolution was truly delightful, but it did not last long. Politicians killed it. If it had been possible for the people to be guided by men who were themselves idealists, men who shared the "immense and amazing

happiness," the history of Russia might have been altogether different. But, to quote again the Russian observer's narrative, "the real things were left undone. The Government did nothing but talk."

The people wanted peace and they wanted land. If they had been assured that they should have land, they would have gone on with the war, much as they longed to end it. But on the land question most of the new rulers sided with the landlords. They never succeeded in winning the confidence of the people, and after they had abolished discipline in the army they had no chance of carrying on the government





#### OLD-WORLD HORSE AND CART FERRY ON THE UPPER REACHES OF RUSSIA'S FAMOUS RIVER

Rising in a lake in the Valdai plateau of Tver, the Volga passes in its long course of nearly 2,400 miles many large towns and enters the Caspian Sea through a delta near Astrakhan. The river is navigable for nearly the whole of its course, and many steamers, boats, and rafts ply its waters. Formerly boats were dragged up the river by burlaki, or river workmen, thousands of whom were employed in the strenuous calling. This method of traction has disappeared, but the plaintive songs of these hard-working people are still fondly cherished and sung throughout the length and breadth of the country.

*Photo, Florence Farnborough*





UNLOADING CARGO FROM A BARGE ON THE VOLGA, THE LARGEST RIVER IN RUSSIA AND THE LONGEST IN EUROPE. The scenery on its banks, though beautiful in some parts, especially Nijni Novgorod to Samara, is nowhere very imposing, but the simple landscapes are full of variety, and monotonous marshy plains alternate with sombre woods of pine and fir, and green meadows stretch round towns and villages, the houses and church cupolas of which arrest the eye with their bright colouring. The traffic on this river highway is considerable, the chief freights being grain, petroleum, and salt, carried in large barges

*Photo, Florence Farnborough*





FISHERMEN OF THE VOLGA TENDING THEIR TACKLE ON THE RIVER'S BANK

Fish abound in the waters of the Volga, particularly sturgeon, carp, and pike, while roach, trout, bream, lamprey, sterlet, tench, and many other fresh water species are to be found in large numbers. On the fertile banks of the river the fishing folk live, a harmless, contented people, devoted to the river which supplies them with their livelihood, and familiar with its every aspect. The fishing and caviare industries were formerly large and important, but degenerated in recent years owing to the pollution of the river by the oil fuel, masut, or petroleum refuse, used by many of the steamers

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*



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without confidence, by the old autocratic methods. So they fell, and with them disappeared the hope of a united nation. The way was left open for men of extreme theory, men who were idealists, it is true, but also iconoclasts, who were for making a clean cut between the past and the new age.

Against them were soon banded together all who feared for their property, all who sought to win back their privileges and places in the ruling caste, all whose habits of thought impelled them to resist change. The moment so big with possibility had been allowed to slip by. There followed the usual episodes of revolution.

Now it may be a century, as it was in France, before a stable and permanent order is established in Russia, before the Oriental conception of government loses its hold.

### Privileges of the *Schveitsars*

Oriental, again, were the troops of servants who ministered to the Russians of the comfortable class. In their country houses especially there was an embarrassment of servitors. In the cities the difficulty of housing them was greater. They slept in any odd corner, often in the kitchen, often in passages.

The most dignified of the servants were the hall porters or *Schveitsars* (Swiss) as they were called. They wore uniform in Government offices, most ornamental uniform, and they were well paid. Their duty was to relieve guests of their hats, overcoats, and goloshes. Everyone wears goloshes. The officers have special ones, with brass-bound openings at the back for their spurs. When it thaws the streets run with water and liquid mud. Even when the snow is dry and hard goloshes are needed, for the surface is so cold that the feet would be half frozen if they were not protected by rubber as well as by leather soles.

To enter any house wearing hat or goloshes is bad manners anywhere. But in Russia it is considered equally impolite to go into a place of business

without taking off your overcoat. Nor is it only this which makes it necessary to take it off. The cold is so intense outside and the heat so great inside that it would be dangerous not to shed one's extra garments on entering a building and to resume them on leaving. This becomes a costly habit if one is paying many visits. For every time hat and coat and goloshes are left with the *Schveitsar* a tip must be given.

### The *Dvornik* or Yardman

In private residences where there is no manservant of this dignified description, guests tip the maid who helps them on with their coats as they leave. This is a regular practice. Servants count upon it as part of their wages. Employers will sometimes say, "We entertain a great deal" as an inducement to a maid to take lower wages than she has asked for.

The yardman (*dvornik*) is the equivalent of the French concierge. He lives in a small lodge or on the ground floor of a block of flats, and he used to be responsible to the police for a knowledge of the goings-out and the comings-in of all who lived in the block. He is also supposed to keep the yard clean, to carry up coals to the flats, to receive messages, and so on. The *dvorniks* were a decent and obliging class, with exceptions; it was by the exceptions that they were too often hastily judged. If they were not tipped as generously as they thought they ought to be at holiday times, they would use their opportunities of being disagreeable, but this only happened to mean or thoughtless tenants.

### Black Beetles "for Luck!"

Russian cooks are artists in a limited sphere. They can all make delicious soups. They can cook the small game-birds of which Russians are so fond to perfection. Their pancakes are excellent when they take trouble over them. They have next to no invention, but they do understand flavours. Apart





#### JOVIAL CONTENTMENT DRIFTING DOWN THE TIDE WITH THE DÉBRIS OF THE FALLEN FOREST

Large quantities of timber are floated at certain times of the year down the Volga. On his log raft this woodman is quite at home, and has fashioned for himself a little cabin from brushwood and sacking which provides a modest though serviceable shelter against the scorching rays of the noonday sun ; and the current slowly bears him and his raft—attached to many other logs—to their destination. He finds the long journey neither monotonous nor irksome, and will often beguile the time with singing, for the Volga stands for much that is poetical to the Russian peasant, and many famous songs are dedicated to the great river

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*



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from their cooking, however, they are difficult to deal with. They bring from the villages whence they nearly all come queer habits and beliefs which at times are apt both to astonish and enrage their employers.

For example, a new cook came to a flat occupied by some acquaintance of mine. Up to then no black beetles had been seen in it. From the moment of her arrival they began to intrude everywhere. It was supposed at first to be a coincidence, but in a little while the cook fell out with one of the other servants, who then disclosed the cause of the sudden plague. The cook had brought a box of black beetles with her from her last place "for luck!"

### Oriental Aspect of Russian Streets

Eastern are the strings of carts (in the winter, sleighs) which are a feature of Russian streets. The nose of each horse just touches the back of the cart in front of it, so, if you are waiting to cross the road, you have to wait some time. This seems to me to be a survival of the caravan habit. It gives the streets an Oriental aspect which is heightened by the crowded state of those parts of cities where the masses do their shopping. The Syennaya in Petrograd, the chief market of the place, was always full. The crowd loitered and jostled and gazed just like a crowd in an Eastern bazaar. The pavements were uneven enough and dirty enough to keep up the illusion. The costumes of the people, too, lent colour to the fancy. Nowhere in Europe could be seen so many picturesque varieties of dress.

Whatever else they may be, the Russians are certainly not commonplace. It is this, combined with their friendly nature and the strain of otherworldliness in them, which explains the affection felt for them and their country by all who have lived in it. They provoke irritation in those who are accustomed to the cut-and-dried, mechanical orderliness of Western life, but they soon

wipe out the memory of it by their charm and sincerity. There are no half measures in your sentiments towards them: you either want to kick them or to put your arm round their necks!

### Music, Morals, and the Moralists

Listen to Russian village songs, or to the marching songs of the soldiers, and you will recognize in them the melancholy of the East. I have heard melodies that were pure Arab in cadence and monotonous fascination. Whether the morals of Russia as well as her music must be ascribed to Eastern influence, I leave to moralists to settle. Certainly they are different from those which form the standard of conduct in the Western world. One odious vice is absent, the vice of hypocrisy, and that seems to balance a great deal on the other side of the account. Relations which elsewhere are concealed are in Russia maintained quite openly. What individuals choose to do is not considered to be the business of anyone but themselves so long, of course, as they do not injure others.

Such a view of conduct strikes British minds usually as not only wrong, but scarcely credible. That a Russian house-mistress should not be scandalised when her cook tells her that she and her supposed husband are not married since they could not afford the large fee which the priest asked for performing the ceremony, appears to the British or American house-mistress to border on atheism. Yet that is a not uncommon story, and there is seldom any reason to disbelieve it.

### The Shadow of the Secret Police

Another matter in which Russian opinion is quite unlike that of most other countries outside the Oriental influence has been mentioned already: bribery.

It was not original sin, however, which accounted for the lenient view which Russians took of bribery. They knew that a great many officials and



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functionaries were so badly paid that they could not live without it. It was part of the tradition of the Government service. One often heard quoted a saying attributed to the Empress Catherine about a man who had remained poor and honest in that service. "We brought him to the water and the fool refuses to drink." Successive generations of rulers accepted this tradition and passed it on.

Sometimes the system of government in Russia was called autocracy. By others it was spoken of as bureaucracy. But neither the monarch nor the officials really governed the country. The most appropriate title for the muddled and incoherent attempts which were made at governing by authorities always at loggerheads with one another, always intriguing against one another, would have been anarchy—no rule. The most powerful man in the empire was the Minister of the Interior, or the

hidden puller of wires who was behind him. For by the Minister of the Interior the secret police were controlled, and it is not too much to say that the secret police could deprive any Russian of his liberty without giving any pretext.

All that Ministers of the Interior used their power for was to crush every aspiration for the gradual development of a constitutional system. Their aim and the aim of officials as a caste apart from the mass of the nation, was to keep things as they were. It was the fear of this mysterious organization known as the Ochrana, it was the all-pervading atmosphere in Russian life of suspicion and distrust, that held people back from joining together in a movement towards reform. They would not have been deterred by violence. Open legal proceedings would not have alarmed them. What did effectually paralyze them was the knowledge that at any moment their



### STAUNCHLY ATTACHED TO OLD-FASHIONED INSTITUTIONS

They belong to the conservative, loyal-hearted peasant class of the Russian interior, and despise the communistic fanaticism that has wrecked their country. Rigorously adhering to old customs, with an unwavering faith in the Divine wisdom, their nature is simple and trusting, always more prone to good than to evil, and they stand for some of the best and truest types of the Russian race

*Photo, Underwood Press Service*



houses might be searched without warrant, and they themselves taken to prison or ordered to live in Siberia, or, even worse perhaps, might be kept under constant surveillance, their letters opened, their movements shadowed, their business interfered with.

Nothing illustrated the anarchical character of the system more vividly than the strange, comical methods of the secret police. In order to persuade other authorities that they were indispensable, they made a practice of fomenting plots and disturbances. Many of the most influential among the revolutionaries were in their pay. Numbers of agents were employed to become revolutionaries so as to find out what was going on, and also to suggest activities if the genuine firebrands were not burning fiercely enough. Some of these agents became revolutionaries in earnest, yet remained in the service of the Ochrana, and betrayed its intentions. The operations of the secret police were carried on in a miasma of deception, treachery, cynical brutality, and scarcely believable muddle-headedness.

Only a people with an Oriental readiness to bow to power could have endured such a crazy engine of despotism. Could Russia have thrown up such men as Mazzini, Garibaldi, Cavour, they would probably have been able to rouse the latent energy of the nation, and to force upon the officials those changes which were indispensable to safety. But no such men appeared. Russia is suffering for this, and will suffer for a long time to come.

In normal times the Russian is Oriental, too, in his business methods.

First, it is necessary to establish friendly relations with him. Talk about anything save business finds him responsive. At the end of the first visit he says: "Come again." Now it is politic to chaff him a little. No one enjoys a joke more. When he has laughed himself into a good humour he may be asked to lunch or dine. The more elaborate the entertainment, the better. After this the next meeting



**THE LABOURER IN THE FIELDS**

Many of the Russian agricultural districts are too poor to provide even horses for the reaping. Peasant labour, being cheaper and more plentiful, is rated lower

*Photo, Lieut.-Col. A. P. Wavell*

will probably see negotiations started and a big order booked.

In Moscow are to be found merchants of the most characteristic Russian type. Many of them have begun life as peasants, or are but one generation removed from the village. Shrewd in affairs, a match for the most insinuating of commercial travellers, they have little knowledge of the world, and their minds



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move in a narrow circle. When they take a fancy to you, these Moscow men of business are magnificently hospitable. Their homes are luxuriously comfortable. Many of them have taste as well as riches, and spend profusely upon the decoration of their rooms. One founded the finest collection of Russian pictures, called after him the Tretyakov Gallery. Another turned his house into a museum of art and made his name, Shchukin, known to connoisseurs everywhere.

The younger generation of merchants have almost all been educated in the modern way. They go to the university when they leave the high school, sometimes to a German university. Often they return home with a distaste for business. If they enter the firms which their fathers have built up, they soon show impatience with the methods to which their fathers cling.

The educated Russian has mostly a contempt for Russian ways. Those who have travelled speak of their own

country as backward, and even barbarous. They profess a keen desire to see it adopt the ways of the countries they have visited. As a rule this remains a desire; they do nothing towards its realization. But the younger men of business do frequently try to "modernise" their methods, and not infrequently come to grief in the process. Their ideas are all of "progress," but their education has not gone deep enough to make them see that sudden changes are risky, and that old-fashioned habits of business may be the only ones with which old-fashioned people can be at ease.

The educated Russian has vastly more information than the educated Englishman. He appears to be vastly more intelligent. He can talk upon many subjects about which the Englishman knows nothing. He takes all learning for his province, and knows a little about everything. The merchants, who are now almost of the past, had little



### COOL SUMMER QUARTERS OF THE TOWN-BRED RUSSIAN

The Russians are traditionally enthusiastic lovers of the forest, and when possible, set up their houses in the very heart of Treeland. The site of this dacha has been well chosen, for the silver birch forest, no matter which the season, possesses unique beauty and charm, and this lovely, graceful tree has been an unending source of inspiration to Russian poets and landscape painters

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*





#### CLUMSY BUT SERVICEABLE SLEIGH OF THE RUSSIAN PEASANTRY

Sleighting is an essential mode of locomotion in Russia for nearly six months out of every twelve, when wheeled vehicles are useless owing to the thick snow which covers the entire length and breadth of the country. The sleighs of the peasantry are of various shapes and sizes, usually clumsy contrivances, but admirably fitted for the hard wear and tear to which they are subjected

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*

education in the sense of book-learning and wide information. They were often scarcely able to write their names or to read more than was absolutely necessary. The habit still obtains of painting upon the outsides of shops specimens of the goods that are sold within. A gaily-coloured bunch of vegetables is the greengrocer's sign, the butcher has a Noah's Ark-like ox; the fruiterer, bunches of grapes and red apples. These signs were as much needed by the merchants as by the mass of the people.

They formed a class apart, and had to pay taxes according to their status in that class. They used, within the memory of persons still living, to wear a distinctive costume, a coat something like a frock-coat, only tight round the

neck, trousers tucked into high boots, a peaked cap. They let their beards grow, and cut their hair straight across at the back of the neck. Their business was done, for the most part, in tea-houses, and this practice has lingered on. There was in Petrograd, on the Nevski Prospekt, a tea-house of the modern type, where delicious cakes were displayed, and where coffee with whipped cream in the Viennese style could be had, as well as tea; here a great deal of business was done up to the time of the Revolution, and in every city or town some meeting-place of this character is sure to be found.

But in Petrograd a large proportion of the trade was in the hands of foreigners, Germans, Swedes, and English. The German was the readiest to adapt





#### TROOPERS OF A SOTNYA OF ORENBURG COSSACKS: MEN WHO ARE FAMED FOR GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

For many centuries the Cossacks of Russia rendered valuable services to the state, and won widespread fame as warriors. Each man provided his horse, uniform, and equipment, and in return received certain state privileges. At home in their stantitsa, or village, they made excellent farmers, but were ever ready to renounce the placid life of the agriculturist for the hard life of the soldier. Astride their sturdy horses the Cossacks displayed marvellous dexterity in the Djigitovka, performing prodigies of equestrian skill with the long, slender lance and formidable nagaika—a short-handled whip carried by every Cossack

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*



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himself to the ways of the country. He had a smart, well-ordered office, and he would do business there with any who cared to call upon him. But he was quite ready to fall in with the tea-house habit. His commercial travellers could speak Russian well; they were given discretion as to the terms they should allow. Those who wanted long credits, which in Russia are customary, got them.

conferred by the Tsar. The Foreign Office was under German management, that is to say, the management of Russians from the Baltic Provinces, who possessed the German virtues of order, honesty, and industry, and were of Teutonic sympathies. Germany could, if she had applied her energies to this task, instead of aiming at an impossible world-wide dominion, have made Russia



MEN WHOSE TRADITIONAL BRAVERY HAS NEVER FLAGGED

The Cossack orderly was an acquisition that no Russian officer ever underrated, for he was the personification of the indomitable pluck and endurance of his warlike race. Devoted to his master and his horses, upon which he lavished untold care and attention, he would follow doggedly through thick and thin, willing to endure every hardship, and, if need be, to sacrifice life itself

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*

Anyone who wanted something different from the firm's usual goods could rely upon being suited if it were possible to gratify his wish.

German influence on Russian trade was therefore strong. In most of the big shops of the big cities German was spoken. The notion that French was widely understood and talked was a stone of stumbling to many foreigners, who found that it was merely the language of diplomacy and diplomatic society. German etiquette was in force at court. German titles, such as *Kammerherr*, *Kammerdiener*, *Kammerjunker*, *Stallmeister*, *Jägermeister*, were

both her vassal and her milch-cow. Commercial penetration might have been followed by political alliance. The Russians might not have liked it, but they did not like many things which they, nevertheless, endured with a fatalistic shrug of their shoulders and a careless "Nitchewo."

The kindly and courteous side of the Russian character was seen more distinctly in Moscow than in Petrograd, for the reason that the ancient capital has remained truly Russian, while the newer capital built by Peter the Great became each year more cosmopolitan and never lost the Prussian air which





# SOLDIERS PRACTISING A QUAINT WINTER PASTIME OF THE RUSSIAN PEASANTRY

Virtually no games or recreations were provided for the Russian soldier, who knew nothing of the fascination of cricket and football, or other healthy strenuous outdoor sports, yet he was never at a loss for pastimes wherewith to beguile the leisure hour. Village life offered many harmless amusements, ingenious enough in their way, such as this small sleigh, fixed to the end of a pole, which is made to revolve round a wheel, the axle of which is firmly embedded in the ground. If the wheel be suddenly arrested by the guiding poles the occupants of the sleigh are precipitated into the snow

*Photo, Florence Farnborough*





# LIFE AND LAUGHTER AMONG THE MUSIC-LOVING MEMBERS OF THE RUSSIAN RANK AND FILE

Music and dancing have a foremost place among the pastimes of the Russians, and out of hours the Russian soldier invariably resorted to music and song as naturally as though they were his sole occupation in life. In small groups they would assemble, singing in unison their melancholy old folk songs; then a balalaika or a concertina would make its appearance, and straightway legs and arms began to move as if by magic, and soon some favourite peasant dances would be indulged in with enthusiastic abandon as only the Russian can dance them—not with legs only, but with body, head, and arms

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*





**RYE BREAD, THE STAPLE FOOD OF THE RUSSIAN LINESMAN, BEING PREPARED IN NOVEL SURROUNDINGS**

In comparison with the soldiers of the Western countries the Russian soldier was badly fed, but his meagre fare, consisting chiefly of "schitchi," or cabbage soup, smoked and salted fish, and rye bread, together with tea and kvass, poor substitute for the vodka which in former times helped to enliven his somewhat colourless existence, appeared to both satisfy and nourish him. When other accommodation was lacking, military bakers, with praiseworthy ingenuity, constructed open-air kitchens, and while half of the staff prepared the dough, the other half stoked the fires and were responsible for the baking

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*



Peter imposed upon it. Moscow strikes one as real, while Petrograd seems artificial still. The Kremlin seen from outside the red walls, with towers graceful and fantastic at frequent intervals, has the same beauty as a page in an illuminated missal of the Middle Ages. Inside, it is less interesting. The churches are rich with gold and silver icons, jewelled in honour of the Saviour who bade the wealthy young man sell all he had and give to the poor. The great bell is a curiosity. The palace is as dull in its furnishing and decoration as it is featureless and forbidding in its architecture.

One of the sights of Moscow which visitors do not often hear about is the huge market where it is said everything can be bought if you only know your way about. On a Sunday when selling is brisk one can find amusement there for hours. Markets and fairs lasted longer in Russia than in countries where communications were better developed. Although the Great Fair at Nijni Novgorod has altered in character, it survives, not only by force of tradition, but because a great deal of business is still done there. In Petrograd there are markets which have held their own against all changes. There is the Gostinnoi Dvor in the centre of the city, which is nothing but an Eastern market of booths made permanent and adapted to the rigour of the climate by brick and stone. There is near it the Jews' Market, which is filled with second-hand dealers' shops, and where the costliest



ONE OF RUSSIA'S FAMILIAR FIGURES

Large Tartar communities are scattered about many parts of Russia, but the physical type remains virtually the same, and where tastes are concerned, all share a common weakness—shashluik, or slices of savoury mutton roasted on a spit

*Photo, F. A. McKenzie*

and the most rubbishy articles are offered for sale side by side.

The canals of Petrograd redeem the city from the reproach of dullness. In summer they are inclined to be smelly, but they reflect the blue of the sky, and one catches fascinating glimpses of their waters through the leafage of trees. In autumn there is another sort of fascination to be found in watching the cold wind ruffle their dark surface into ice. Winter sees them frozen over many feet thick. On two of them skating-rinks were railed off, with

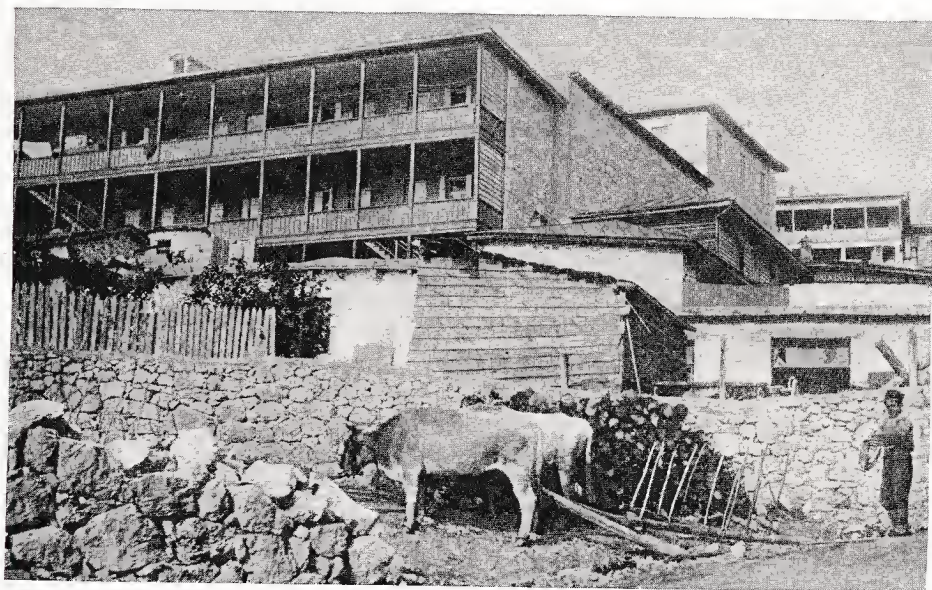


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dressing-rooms, tea-rooms, and a bandstand. Follow the Fontanka Canal as far as you can, past the point where the Yekaterine Canal flows into it, and you come to a bridge beyond which you catch sight of masts. It is one of the charms of Petrograd that so often you can look up a street and be aware of shipping and the nearness of the sea. The majestic Neva, swift-flowing and magnificent under a northern sunset, pours itself into the Gulf of Finland very near the city. As it does so, it forms the famous islands, over which all visitors to

gives on any fine day in January, February, or March. Deep white snow all around, sparkling sunshine, cloudless sky, the trees outlined in crystals, the ice of the river and the gulf shining—no prospect, no atmosphere could be more enchanting.

Up to December the weather is usually uncertain and sunless. With the New Year it takes a turn for the better. The snow melts and the ice begins to break up late in April or early in May. Then for a month nature is still, the trees are black, the earth shows scarce



TARTAR CARAVANSERAI IN A COASTAL VILLAGE OF THE CRIMEA

Protected from the cold winds of the north by a range of mountains banked above them like a high screen, the towns of the southern Crimea lie on the borders of the Black Sea glittering in almost perpetual sunshine under a sky of cloudless blue. Luxuriant gardens, orchards and vineyards, dainty white villas and small Tartar villages, all add to the indescribable charm of this beautiful peninsula

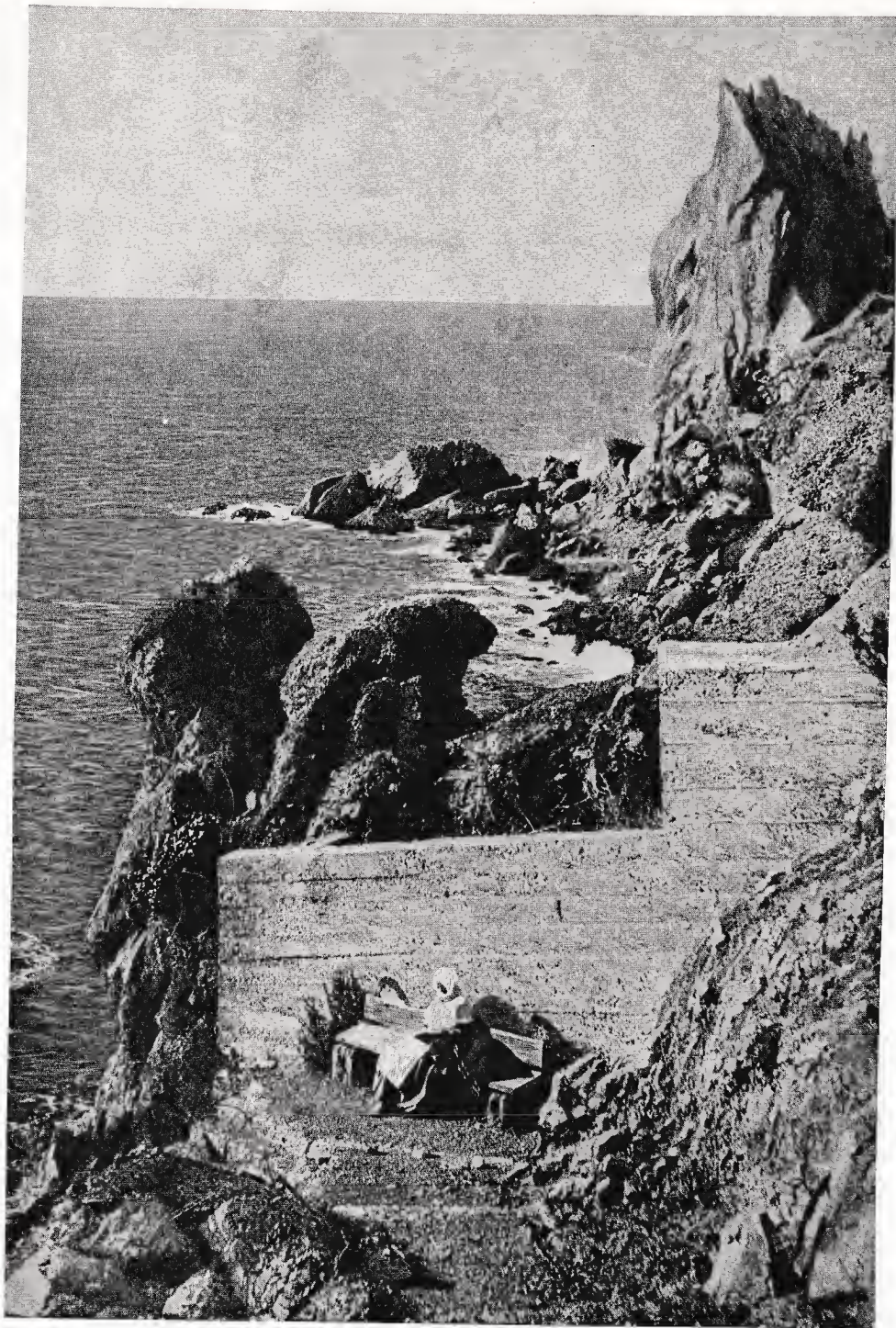
*Photo, Florence Farmborough*

Petrograd are at once driven. There used to be fashionable and fantastically expensive night restaurants on the islands, and a midnight drive thither with the temperature "twenty below" was a regular part of a winter night's pleasure.

The islands, then, were to Petrograd what the Bois de Boulogne is to Paris, with this difference, that it is seldom possible in the Bois to experience such exhilaration as a walk on the islands

a sign of bringing forth its increase. Then, with a rush of growth and a warm, sweet breath, spring changes the appearance of the land in a night almost. Kept snug under the snow for half the year, the seeds germinate robustly, and in the strong sunshine the green shoots push rapidly upwards. Flowers spring in the woods and meadows. The trees are in a green mist one day; the next, it seems, their leafage is complete. This sudden change from winter to





### ON THE LOVELY SHORES OF THE CRIMEA, THE RIVIERA OF RUSSIA

To the majority of Western people the name Crimea is familiar only because of its associations with the Crimean War, yet the peninsula is one of the beauty spots of Europe, with exquisite scenery, favourable climate, and fertile soil. As a pleasure resort and watering place, the Crimea is well known, and the lure of the Sunny South attracted Russian wealth and fashion from the north

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*





# HOMELESS RUSSIA LEFT TO RUN THE GAUNTLET OF FAMINE AND DISEASE

All the despair of the homeless and breadless multitudes of Russia is depicted on the face of this woman who, haunted with the fear of death for her children, sees stretched out before her the sombre dreariness of everyday life, only broken by fierce outbursts of Bolshevik passion. Like many other refugees they have been left to the tender mercies of nature, and, anticipating no good from their fellow-men, can echo the significant words of one of their sorely tried compatriots: "Nothing can astonish or frighten us now; we have passed through all,"

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*



## RUSSIA & THE RUSSIANS

summer, with no spring to speak of, occurs all over Russia, but not, of course, at the same moment. If you leave Archangel in April, you leave the port frozen up still and the snow as solid as in January. Travel to Petrograd and you may see the ice just breaking up on the Neva. After a night in the train you are at Moscow, where the period of waiting for the trees and the earth to shake off the grip of frost has begun. At Kiev after another twenty-four hours' train journey the buds are uncurling and the sun shines with power. Go further south to Odessa and you are among fruit trees in full blossom, chestnuts are showing their flowers, laburnum has already cast its golden rain. Along the Crimea there were resorts of

health-seekers and fashionable idlers where it is warm in March.

The Russian aristocracy did not require to seek the French Riviera in winter, they could find in their own country a sheltered haven of warmth and flowers, spread with scenery varied and picturesque which must be seen to be fully appreciated. Yalta, an enchanting spot, essentially the Mecca of the "upper ten," was like Nice on a small scale, and Kislovodsk in the Caucasus set itself up to rival Marienbad and Evian. The charm of the Black Sea coast and the grandeur of the mountains made up for defects in hotel management, and the absence of other pastimes was not noticed by Russian visitors so long as there was mild gambling to be enjoyed.

## II. Life in Soviet Russia

By F. A. McKenzie

Author of "Russia Before the Dawn," etc.

**B**OLSHEVISM has completely changed the outer life of the Russian people, although it seems to have merely shaken those national characteristics which have made the Slav what he is.

In March, 1917, tsarism disappeared, and a Socialist Republic was formed. In November, 1917, the Socialist Republic had to give way to the Communist State. The Bolsheviks set out to build up a new society, based on the dictatorship of the working classes, which were to be given all rights and power. The old middle and upper classes, grouped together as "bourgeoisie," were to be destroyed or absorbed in a workers' republic.

As a start, all private property rights were abolished. All land, all goods of every kind, all money, all precious stones, the very clothes that men wore became henceforth the property of the state. The very furniture in a private home was no longer the possession of its former owners. The

state might take it, and usually did, possibly leaving the former owner a few things for his own use. The former rich were treated with special disdain. In one district that I know, after being expelled from their old homes they were sent to cellar dwellings. "They have had more than their share of the good things of life. Now let them taste the bad," said the commissar appointed to administer the district.

Banks were closed or taken over by the state, and after a few months people could no longer draw from their savings on deposit. Stock exchanges were closed down, and even if they had not been, stocks and shares had lost their value. A sponge was wiped over debts, public and private. The state planned to abolish money altogether, adopting a system of exchange in kind.

All who had lived on rents, on the interests of invested capital, on the yield of great estates, found their means of livelihood disappear almost in a day. Some people hid their savings,



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and gradually brought out their buried roubles secretly to buy food. But money dropped so rapidly in value that even great hoards soon became of little worth.

Within three years of the start of the Communist Republic, two hundred thousand roubles, in pre-war days worth, say, £20,000, were worth but £1. In the early summer of 1923, during the anxious days when a break was expected in Anglo-Russian relations, people offered one thousand million roubles for an English £1 note. One thousand million roubles in the old days were equal to £100,000,000—more than the wealth of the richest man in the world.

The learned professions suffered heavily. Lawyers, judges, notaries, and all the elaborate organization of old-time justice were thrown into the discard. Courts of law and the old code

of law were abolished, their place being taken by peoples' courts, presided over by working men, who sentenced according to "the proletarian conscience."

Doctors were employees of the state, receiving a pitifully small salary and an allowance of food. Professors and teachers who were suffered to retain their posts were also paid by the state.

All the machinery of trade halted. Foreign markets were closed to Russia, for other nations had declared a blockade, and so exports and imports ceased. Private shops were closed. Nothing did more to produce an air of apathy and deadness in the cities than this. Restaurants—except for a few that ran secretly—were closed, and so the armies of cooks, waiters, musicians, scullions found their old living gone.

The state was to be the universal parent. It provided work, food,



**SATURDAY VOLUNTEER WORKERS CLEANING THE MOSCOW STREETS**

In the Russian vocabulary, "Saturdaying" now signifies not merrymaking, but hard work. All able-bodied Russians must volunteer each Saturday for state service, a rule that has helped to break the back of Bolshevist ardour, for according to a careful observer: "The best cure for this disease is—Bolshevism. Bolshevism in practice is an unfailing remedy for Bolshevism in theory"





#### BOLSHEVISTS MAKE MERRY ON THE FIRST OF MAY

Russia has never allowed the old customs of general jollity on May Day to die out. Before the Revolution, the students all assumed white cap covers, even if the snow was falling, as a sign that spring, or, at any rate, its season, had come. The date has now been turned by the Bolsheviks into Labour Day, and here they are seen celebrating this day in their own way

amusement, travel, education. Everyone was rationed, and much time each day was spent in waiting for doles of food in the public distributing centres. As civil war and the blockade grew in severity, the rations grew smaller and smaller, until in Petrograd in 1919-20 the average ration often did not amount to more than one to two ounces of black bread a day, with, perhaps, an occasional portion of potato or herring soup.

Masses of the people were at first intoxicated by their new liberty, and in their release from the severity of the old rule they plunged into many excesses. The poor marched from their slum dwellings and seized the homes of the rich; working men drove their old managers and foremen away, and took possession of the factories. There was to be no master save the people's will. School children appointed committees, school "soviets," to manage their schools, and declared that they would only study what and when they wanted. Patients in hospitals appointed their "soviets," that gave directions to the doctors. The working-man engineer

scorned dictation about his work. He would do what he pleased.

The years from 1917 to the summer of 1921 were a period of great suffering for all classes. Many of the old rich and professional workers fled, and established colonies in Berlin, Paris, and elsewhere. Many of those who remained were arrested for conspiracy against the new Government, and many died. Those who remained had to work like other people, and there were some officials who delighted in giving them the most menial tasks. Former princesses became laundry women; society ladies of yesterday were found sweeping the streets or clearing the snow. Wise men and women forgot their old life, learned a trade, drove a cab, wielded a hammer, or went as peasants on the land. Others clung on to their old traditions, believing that this new condition of affairs could not endure.

There were great rebellions. Large sections of the old tsarist armies, under generals like Denikin, Koltchak, Wrangel, and Yudenitch, fought the Bolsheviks, and at one period had





#### FORCEFUL ORATORY FROM AN ARMOURED CAR IN THE RED SQUARE

To a mixed audience of soldiers and civilians Kamarev, one of the Bolshevik commissars, or civil administrators, harangues with vivid gestures. Behind are the tall buildings of the Trading Rows of Moscow, a hive of offices and shops over two hundred and fifty yards long. But while the crowd is animated under its many banners, commerce halts in the great emporium





### BROTHERHOOD UNDER THE FIRST FLAG OF FREE RUSSIA

When the storm of revolution first broke over Russia, all classes and creeds were united by "an immense and amazing happiness." Freedom of thought, word, and action had come at last, and the watchwords of the bloodless revolution, "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity," emblazoned throughout the land, held bright hopes for the future. But Russia is still no nearer to the millennium

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*



### MOCK EXECUTION OF THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR LIEBKNECHT'S DEATH

On the anniversary of the murder of Karl Liebknecht the German Socialist, Russian Communists organized a "demonstration." Palm leaves, with ribbons, testifying to the "everlasting glory" of this "Apostle of Communism," adorned a portrait of Liebknecht, and behind, a huge inscription bore the words: "You kill our leaders, but you cannot kill the Communist Revolution"



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conquered so much territory that they seemed likely to win. But the Bolsheviks, often with working-men commanders, fought with the fanaticism of religious enthusiasts, and defeated one after another. Many peasants resented the new Communism which, while it gave them land, only permitted them to keep sufficient of what they grew to feed themselves, claiming the rest for the state. Peasant uprisings were frequent. These, too, were gradually suppressed.

The Communist leaders aimed at creating a systematic state, with strict discipline, and a more even distribution of wealth. They were enthusiasts for education, and opened new schools all over the country. They tackled illiteracy, compelling all workers in factories and all soldiers to learn to

read and write. They took control of the Press, and poured out books by the million, not merely propagandist works, but standard literature. They were hampered at every turn by lack of money and lack of trained assistance. When they tried to reorganize industry, they found that there were few or none to take the place of the old and experienced managers and foremen.

In running the state, they had to employ hundreds of thousands of non-Communists, and many of these did their best secretly to hamper and wreck all they could. The Communists were opposed to excessive officialism, but they found that they were employing more often worse officials than tsarism had done in its heyday.

Early in 1921, Lenin, the Communist leader, induced his followers to face the



WOMEN AND CHILDREN ENJOYING THE BENEFITS OF THE RED RULE

It was soon discovered by the minority who engineered the revolution that they, like the old rulers, had still to reckon with the great majority. This section soon found propaganda and revolutionary rhetoric but sorry substitutes for food. The little ones in this queue wait for soup while an ironic notice over the way reads "stolovaya," or eating-house, the phrase as empty as the shop





#### APOSTLE OF DESTRUCTION INTENT ON HIS WANTON WORK

One fanatical aspect of Bolshevism is vividly depicted in this scene where a young hooligan revels unrestrainedly in his malicious destructive tendencies. Communist psychology has swept away all barriers of self restraint and the international law of Bolshevism may be summed up in "the good old rule, the simple plan that he shall take who has the power, and he shall keep who can"

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*

situation. Manufactures had almost entirely ceased. Many of the peasants, as a protest against the seizure of their surplus food stuffs, were only growing the minimum of grain necessary for themselves. Much of the machinery of manufacture was wrecked or useless. Tools, locomotives, ploughs, and spades were all wanted. Old stocks were exhausted, none were being produced to take their place, and the state had no money to buy any.

In the cities the people were cold and hungry. Most of the hospitals had no medicines or drugs, not even chloroform to give momentary unconsciousness to people under the knife. In the schools there was not one pencil for every twelve children.

Something had to be done. The working men would not think of going back to the old tsarism. Acting on

Lenin's counsel, it was resolved to modify Communism, and to permit some private activity again. As a start, the peasant was allowed to retain and deal in the foodstuffs he raised. Next, small industries were handed back to private initiative, and the attempt that had been made to destroy money was definitely abandoned.

At first, people were doubtful about the sincerity of the authorities. These fears were soon set at rest.

After the autumn of 1921 shops gradually re-opened. People were permitted to own their own homes. They were allowed to possess private wealth and even, under some limitations, to bequeath it. Businesses came more and more under private management, and while the state, by a system of "trusts," owned and controlled the big industries, it was expected that some of



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### COMRADE OF THE COMMUNISTS

Physically he is a brawny soldier, but his finer feelings have been blunted by Bolshevik influence, and he is expected to commit any crime in the cause of Red Russia

*Photo, Donald McLeish*

these would again return to private control. Banking was revived, the court of law was constituted as a separate organization, with professional lawyers, and strict discipline was established in factories. Above all, the system of universal rations disappeared. People who wanted food, clothing, travel, amusement, had to pay for them

as in other lands, or go without. The visitors to Moscow or Petrograd were now usually surprised at the order and quiet there. The capital was transferred from Petrograd to Moscow, which became the centre of government. Much of the wreck and ruin of the revolution was cleared away. The streets were well kept, traffic was strictly controlled, there was an excellent tramway system, and the shops began to show beautiful things. The selection of the shop stocks was, however, strangely uncertain. One could not as a rule buy, for example, roll films, foreign newspapers, or foreign new books, but food was cheap. There were many unemployed.

The theatres of Moscow, always world leaders, retained their leadership right through the revolution. The Moscow Great Theatre retained its place as one of the three greatest opera houses in Europe, while theatres like the Art, the Kamerny, and Meyerhold's showed the way for fresh developments in drama.

Moscow had its new rich, the Nepmen as they were called (N.E.P.—New Economic Policy, the change instituted by Lenin in 1921). They mostly made their living by trading and speculation. To cater for these there were expensive restaurants and gambling houses, where gay night life was maintained until three every morning. In the shops one could buy furs as costly and dresses as delicate as ten years before. Some of the old court dressmakers endeavoured to work out a new republican mode in women's dress, which should give a note of simplicity and modernism typifying the Commune. But it was confessed that the "new rich woman preferred the latest Paris fashions."

Most of the rest of the country was far less happy than Moscow. One reason for this was the terrible famine that swept over south and south-east Russia in 1921-22. Famines are periodic in the Volga region, but in olden days there were always stores of





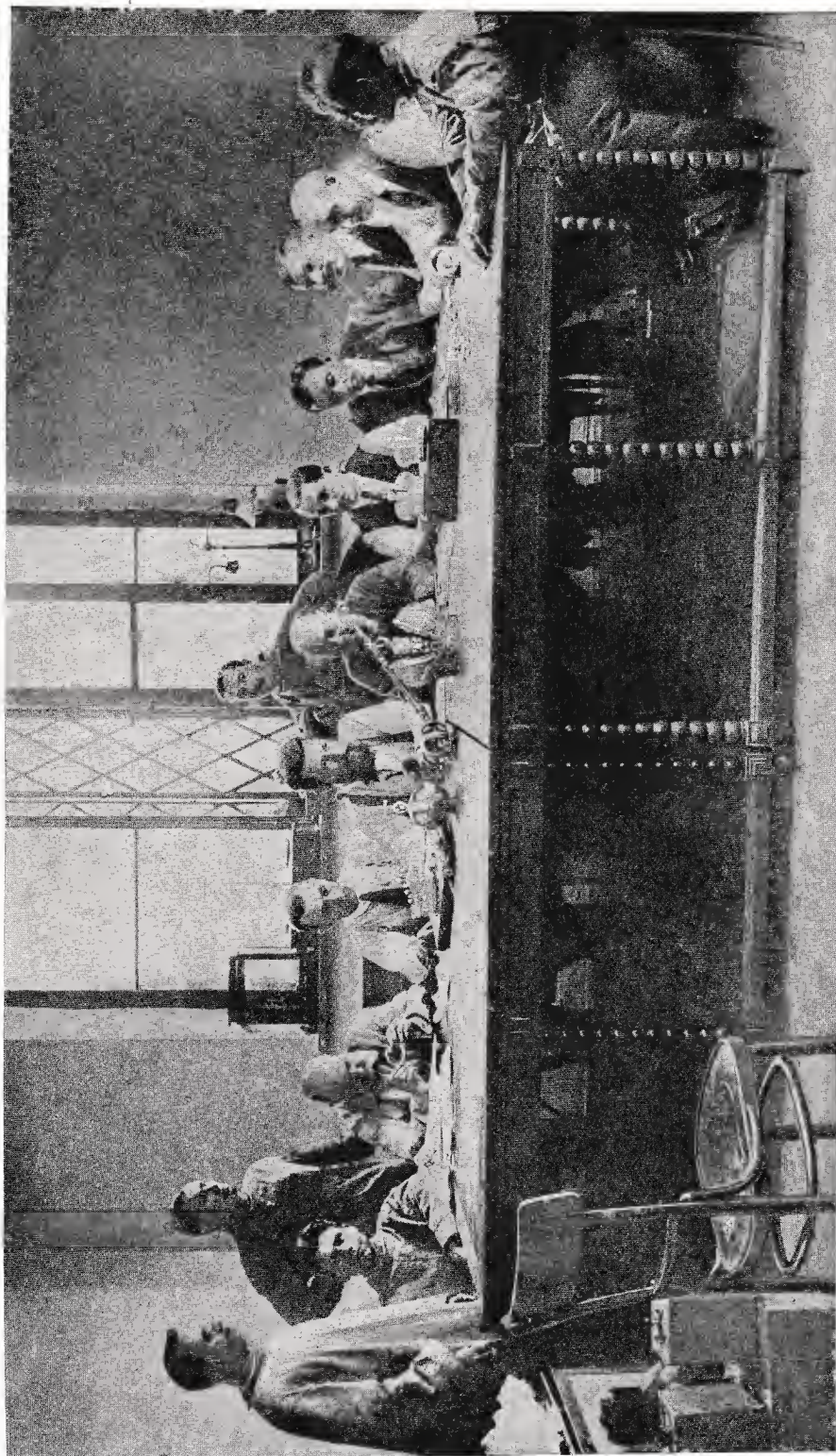
**"RED ROSA" OF RED RUSSIA AND FELLOW REVOLUTIONARIES**  
 Bouquet in hand, and wearing a white lace dress, Red Rosa, as she was appropriately called—not to be confused with Rosa Luxemburg—is seen holding court in the midst of a group of fellow agitators. It is alleged that she killed several hundred Russian officers with her own hand, and that then, satiated for a space with her crimes, she posed as a goddess of justice and a promoter of freedom



**MEN AND BOYS IN THE WELTER OF BOLSHEVISM**  
 Withdrawn from their normal avocations and gathered together to await the decision of Russia's new rulers as to their next task, these men and boys, in their varied and nondescript garb, form just such a crowd as revolution might cause to assemble in any great city. For them obedience to Red rule is the only alternative to hunger or perhaps a more sudden end by execution

*Photos, Donald McLeish*





**RUSSIAN IMPERIAL JEWELS, INCLUDING THE LATE TSAR'S CROWN, IN THE HANDS OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT**  
The long narrow table is spread with an array of priceless jewels forming part of the famous Russian Crown Jewels, seized by the Bolsheviks, kept in the secrecy of a guarded building in Moscow, and valued in American currency at sixty billion dollars. A few Soviet officials, including members of the Crown Jewel Committee, the Director of the Hermitage Museum at Petrograd, and a well-known French jewel expert are here seen placing an assayed value on the beautiful gems, in order that they may be disposed of in foreign markets to help Russian finances and so stabilise the Russian rouble

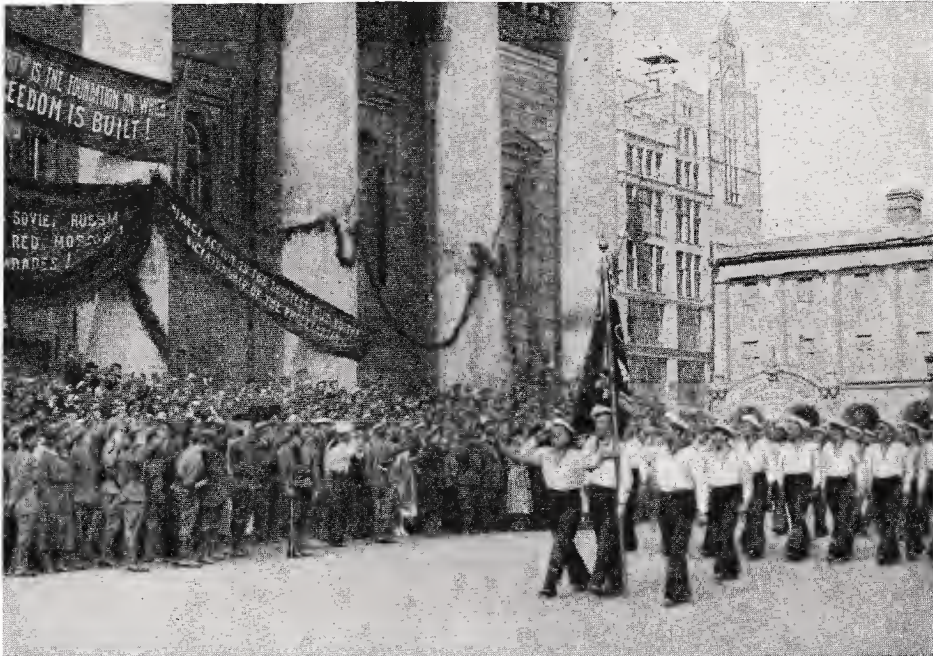


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food to meet them. In 1921 the country had been swept by rival White and Red armies, and all the peasants' stocks had vanished. The horrors experienced, particularly in the early winter of 1921, will scarce bear description. People fled from their farms, flocking to the cities and the railways, where they herded together like cattle, famine-stricken multitudes, mad with despair. Parents abandoned their

equipped the hospitals and institutions of half Russia with full stocks of medical supplies. The relief work of the different organizations lasted until the summer of 1923, when the famine was over and most withdrew.

Another horror that did much to check progress was epidemic disease, a dead spectre that marched through the land claiming its share of human life. Cholera in summer and typhus in the



RED MOSCOW GREETING A BRITISH LABOUR DELEGATION

Red Moscow did its best for the entertainment of a British Labour Delegation, and friendly greetings were showered upon the visitors from all sides. For their benefit a naval and military parade was organized, and members of the delegation are here seen assembled under the portico of the Opera House, reviewing Communist forces marching past them through the Theatre Square

children, and men and women died wholesale, until it was impossible to bury them, save in heaps in great pits. People dropped dead in the streets and lay until the dogs gnawed at them.

The Russian Government appealed to the world for aid, and the world responded. The British did something, but the lion's share of relief was carried out by the Americans, who spent \$70,000,000 (say, £14,000,000), fed at one time over ten million hungry, and

autumn and winter slew their hundreds of thousands. Dr. Shemaskho, the head of the Government Commissariat of Health, with the assistance of foreign agencies, began a great campaign, and by the spring of 1923 these were apparently brought under control. Another epidemic disease, however, spread over large parts of Russia—malaria—and month by month during the summer claimed increasing armies of victims. In the first flush of Communist



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enthusiasm, some proposed the separation of children from their parents, to bring them up in institutions from three years old, in order to attain more perfect equality. This, however, was never put in practice. Large numbers of institutions were opened by the state, but these were filled by orphan and destitute children.

One of the most far-reaching changes under the Commune was the transformation of the position of the Church. Russia was formerly the most religious country in Christendom, if the outward observance of religious ceremony be taken as a measure of faith. Icons (sacred pictures) hung everywhere, and the gorgeous ceremonial of the Greek Church pervaded national life. There was, admittedly, much corruption and immorality in the Church, especially in

some monasteries, and discipline among the clergy was slack. Drunkenness, for example, was often regarded as little more than an amiable weakness.

With the rise of Communism, all was changed. The Communists were avowedly atheists. Under the new Russian Constitution, the Church was disestablished and religious freedom granted. But the entire influence of the Communist party was against religion, and the Churches were soon made to feel it. Various ordinances were passed regulating religious activity.

The class teaching of religion to young people under eighteen was prohibited, and Churches were forbidden to exercise philanthropy. The struggle between one section of the Church and the State came to a head over the resolution of the Government. to use surplus Church



WHEN THE FLOODGATES OF BOLSHEVIST ORATORY ARE THROWN OPEN  
Bolshevist leaders found it not a little difficult to retain the interest and affection of many of their followers whose eyes were gradually opened to the horror of the despotism that became rampant in Russia. But eloquence works wonders with the peasant's childlike credulity, and the ambitious orator was able quickly to gather a crowd and sway it to right or left with the fire of his verbosity





#### RAW REVOLUTIONARIES IN TRAINING AT PETROGRAD

By its avowed friendship for the poor, its advocacy of liberty, and hatred of bureaucracy, Russian Communism drew to its ranks all the proletariat of the towns. Here is a division of men and lads from Minsk, their irregular marching proving them to be the rawest of recruits, but a few weeks under Bolshevik training would transform them into capable servants of the Commune

treasures for famine relief. Many clerics were arrested for resisting this decree and for allied offences, and the execution of the Greek Archbishop of Petrograd and the Catholic Dean Butchkevitch appalled the world.

Communism unquestionably has much influence on the moral life of the people. Just as in England the excitement of the Great War led to a lowering of the moral standard, so war and revolution had a similar effect in Russia.

Marriage laws became very simple, consisting of a form of registration. Most Russians, however, insisted upon a religious marriage as well. Divorce could be had, without specific cause, at the will of either party; but after a third divorce a person was not allowed to re-marry. One of the great problems with young people arose from the fact that in the break-up of life during national change it was impossible to train many for professions or callings. The universities were, however, crowded as never before.

Money presented one of the problems of new Russia. With a currency con-

stantly falling, no one except the foolish saved paper money. A hundred millions to-day might be worth only fifty millions next week. People bought goods, or gold, or gold notes if they wished to save.

To avoid big numbers the Government late in 1921 issued new notes on which each rouble was worth ten thousand old roubles. In 1923, still fresh notes were printed; one rouble was worth a million old roubles of three years before.

After studying surface changes, the onlooker was forced to believe that fundamentally Russia retained her nationality and her national characteristics. Many of the faults that provoked foreigners most were very like those known under the old regime. New Russia, like old Russia, was bureaucratic. But new Russia was seen to be trying to find the right path. And it seemed in 1923 safe to say that, whatever path she took it would not be one leading her back to the old regime. That stage had passed as definitely as the rule of Napoleon had passed in France.





**CROWDS OUTSIDE THE KREMLIN ACCLAIMING "LIBERTY"**

This is a glimpse of the Red Square at Moscow on the occasion of a great military review held in connexion with the "Red International," and attended by many important Soviet commissars and officials and witnessed by immense throngs, one and all animated by the ideas, more or less understood, of those who were then controlling the destinies of what was once the Empire of the Tsars



# Russia

## III. Rise & Progress of the Great Slav State

By Sir Bernard Pares

Professor of Russian Language, Literature and History, London University

**R**USSIA occupies the eastern half of Europe and a great part of Asia, having for its northern boundary the Arctic Ocean. As there are no interior mountain ranges, there are few and only gradual variations in climate as one goes southward. There is a greater proportion of marsh than in any other large country in Europe. These marshes serve as reservoirs to great rivers which, winding through the crumbly soil, traverse enormous distances and form natural highways. Along these great river-ways travelled the stream of peasant migration which was the chief factor in the creation of the Russian Empire.

The northern part is covered with forests, mostly coniferous. The southern part is open plain, and is the best grain-producing land in Europe. It was along this black soil that the invaders found a ready road into Europe. The black soil begins far back in Siberia, and in an ever-narrowing wedge reaches as far west as Galicia. Asiatic tribal organizations, if they were unable to break through to the Pacific, could follow this great road westward; it gave them abundant fodder for their horses and cattle.

The Slavs, of which family the Russian people are a branch, appear in the first few centuries of the Christian era only as subject elements in successive agglomerations of various tribes, rapidly formed and dissolved. The home in which history first identifies them is near the Carpathian Mountains from which, near the end of the fifth century and throughout the sixth, they raided the eastern empire of Byzantium. The clan was the basis of their social life; and it would seem that their military expeditions, which had but little organization, were conducted by the military elements of various clans.

### Clan Life Replaced by the Family

It appears that they were organizing themselves into something more like a confederation when, in the sixth century, they were conquered and enslaved by the Avars. This set various Slavonic units radiating out in different directions. The Serbs and Croats went south-west, the Czechs and Slovaks north-west, the Poles north, and the Russians eastward to the Dnieper. The migration helped to split up the old clan basis which, by the time the Russians settled on the Dnieper, had

been almost replaced by that of the family. The Dnieper forms part of a great river-road running from Scandinavia to Constantinople. This road runs by the Gulf of Finland, the Neva, Lake Ladoga, the Volkhov, the Lovat, then by tributaries of the Dvina to the Dnieper, by which it passes into the Black Sea. When the Russians approached the Dnieper from the west, they found on its eastern side an Asiatic tribe, the Kozars, who, being rather traders than warriors, offered for over a hundred years an unwonted respite from the conflicts which disturbed this part of Europe. The Russians became tributary to the Kozars, but their yoke was an easy one and the connexion gave them trade communication as far as the Black Sea, the Volga, and even Bagdad (ninth century).

### Russia Based on the River-Road

In the ninth century the empire of the Kozars was overthrown by a peculiarly savage people from Asia—the Pechenegs. The water-road lost its eastern communications, and was itself in danger. It was in these circumstances that various Viking adventurers, who had now become more necessary than ever for the defence of the Slavonic towns, were able to make themselves masters of them. The best known of these incomers was Rurik, who established his rule in Novgorod on the Volkhov; his successor Oleg (879-912) extended his control south as far as Kiev, and moved thither the centre of his rule.

The name Rus was first given to this state. It was less a dominion than a militant trading company based on the water-road. The Vikings Askold and Dir, who had preceded Oleg in Kiev, had already made a military expedition to Constantinople. Several others followed under Oleg and his successors. These relations of war and trade acquainted the Russians with eastern Christianity; and Olga, who was regent after the death of her husband, Prince Igor, became a Christian (957). Her son and successor, Svyatoslav, at one time thought of moving his capital from Kiev to Bulgaria, but it was his son Vladimir who introduced Orthodox Christianity into Russia.

Yaroslav, son of Vladimir (1015), made Kiev one of the principal cities of the Orthodox East. He made marriage alliances with other European states, and



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one of his daughters became Queen of France. He initiated the first written law code of Russia (*Russkaya Pravda*), which was an attempt to codify for civil cases the principles of Byzantine legislation blended with Viking and Russian customs.

Kiev kept up a long struggle against the heathen nomads from Asia, but she proved unequal to this strain. The population itself moved away from the threatened water road. Some retreated to Galicia (the future Ukrainians); others, the majority, took a line of least resistance to the watershed round Moscow, where, blending with Finnish elements, they formed the Great Russian race.

### Tartar Invasion of Russia

In 1224 the heaviest blow from the side of Asia fell upon Russia. The Tartars were an accumulation of Mongolian tribes massed into a vast moving and militant force by the genius of Temuchin (Jenghiz Khan, d. 1227). The main mass remained in Eastern Asia and established the greatest empire of the time, of whose organization we have a picture in the *Travels of Marco Polo*. A great-nephew of Jenghiz Khan, Baty, led another mass of Tartars into Russia. The Polovtsy, who had routed and replaced the Pechenegs, appealed to the Southern Russian princes for help, which some of these gave, but were easily overwhelmed. This was only the advance guard of the Tartars, and in 1237 the mass moved in a more northerly direction, attacking Central Russia.

Vladimir, the new capital created by Andrew Bogolyubsky, was sacked, and never recovered its importance. The Tartars conquered practically all Russia, except the great merchant city of Novgorod, protected by its climate and its marshes. For two hundred and forty years (1240-1480) Russia was to remain under the Tartar yoke.

### Administration Centred in Moscow

It was only during the first years of subjection that this yoke was felt in its full weight; the Tartars did not settle in Central and Northern Russia. Attacks and raids were to continue for many generations; and Tartar envoys regularly appeared to claim tribute. Even Alexander Nevsky (d. 1263), the national hero of this time of distress, who had won notable victories over the Swedes and the German knights (1240-41), had to counsel the unconquered city of Novgorod to pay this tribute.

Russia was ruled by small principalities which took more and more of a territorial basis and were further and further subdivided. The office of Grand Prince, or head of the family, was now conferred

by the Tartar Khan, and for some time it passed about among different branches of the princely race. Tver for a time held the headship, but was ultimately outplayed and superseded by Moscow.

The Moscow princes, after the model of Andrew, followed a policy of purchase and colonisation. This was greatly assisted by their obsequious attitude towards the Tartars; and it was not long before the Tartars found it convenient to leave the superintendence of taxation and administration largely to Moscow—the office of Grand Prince soon becoming permanent in the Moscow branch. The Metropolitans (Heads of the Church) ultimately established themselves in Moscow and put the prestige of the Church behind the Moscow princes; and Moscow developed a practice, which became more and more systematic, of concentrating all wealth and power in the hands of the reigning prince, to the disprofit of his brothers.

A succession of mediocre but consistent princes led up to the reign of Dmitry of the Don (1359-89). He united the various Russian principalities in a common effort against the Tartars and thoroughly defeated them at Kulikovo in 1380. Moscow was raided by them soon afterwards; but the Russians now grew bolder. Under his grandson, Vasily (1425-62), Moscow finally and irrevocably adopted the order of succession from father to son instead of from brother to brother.

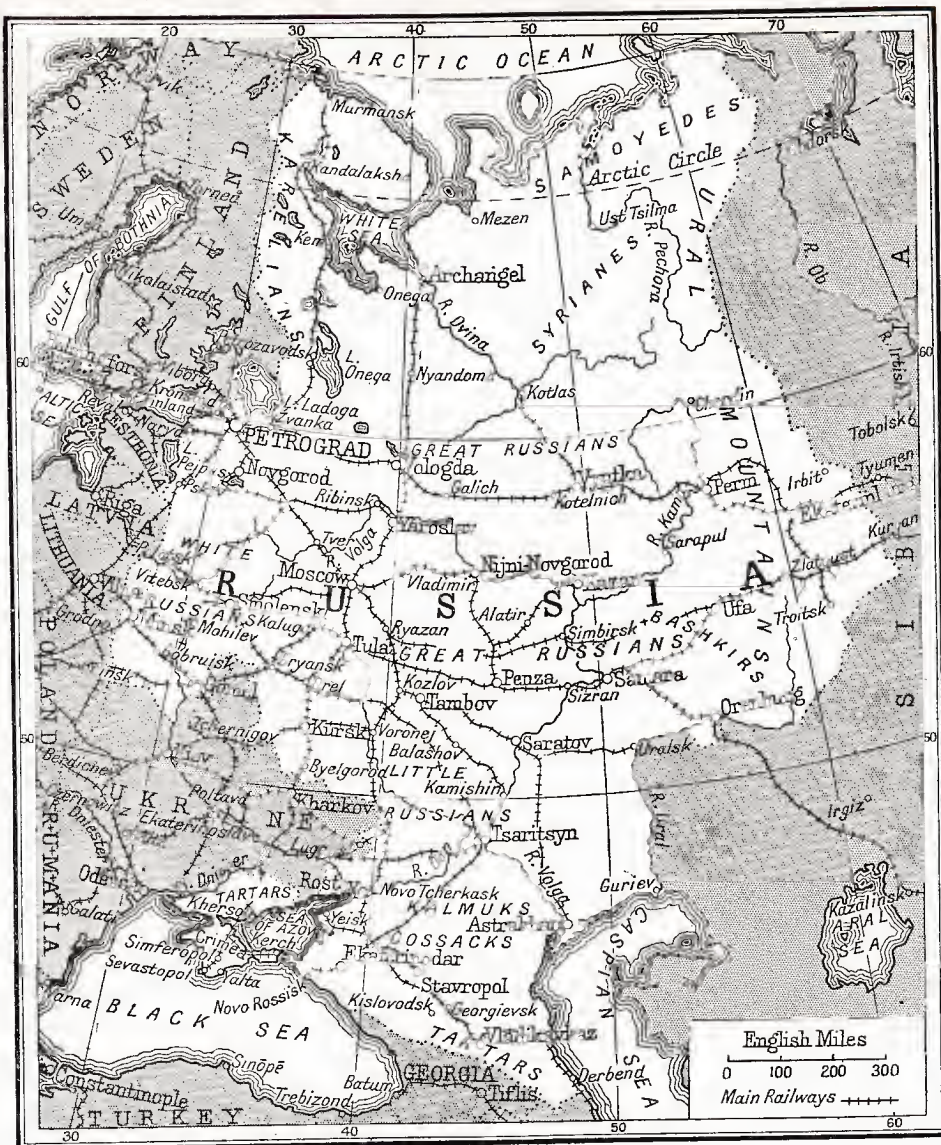
Moscow's authority was truly national; based on the people's need for security and on the strong support of the Church. It was threatened from both sides, which meant constant wars. In 1386 Lithuania, containing a great number of Russians, was united by marriage to Poland, which was henceforward always hostile to Russia.

### Hereditary Autocracy Established

Ivan III. (1462-1505), son of Vasily, enormously increased the power of Muscovy. Already the line of the middle Volga, which gave the independent merchant city of Novgorod its communications with its eastern possessions, had been crossed northwards by Moscow colonisation, so that the Muscovite princes could, when they wished, hold up the supplies. Novgorod looked for support to Lithuania, but its citizens were divided, and the great city fell into Ivan's hands like a ripe fruit (1471). Pskov was to fall to Muscovy without a struggle in the next reign.

When, in 1453, Constantinople was captured by the Turks, the niece of the last Greek emperor, Sophia Palaeologa, who became a ward of the Pope, was married to Ivan III. (he was then a widower). Sophia regarded herself as almost an independent sovereign, and





### EUROPEAN RUSSIA AND ITS PEOPLES

Ivan considered that he had thus become the heir to the tradition of Constantinople. Byzantine ceremonial was introduced into the Moscow court and helped to strengthen the Russian autocracy. It was now that the Moscow ruler first used the title of Tsar (Caesar).

One result of the marriage was that Moscow finally threw off the Tartar yoke (1480). The Tartars were now as much divided among themselves as the Russians had been when they first arrived. There remained three independent Tartar khanates at Kazan, Astrakhan, and Crimea; the last-named later became a part of the Turkish empire.

Ivan's grandson, Ivan the Terrible

(1533-1584), conquered Kazan, and soon afterwards annexed Astrakhan (1553-54). This opened the road into Siberia, and the region east of the Urals was at the end of the reign conquered by a Cossack, Yermak (1582). Yermak loyally handed over his conquest to Moscow. The further conquest of Siberia proceeded by more or less peaceable colonisation along the main lateral rivers eastwards.

Ivan the Terrible had himself turned his attention westwards, where Turkey, Poland and Sweden blocked his outlets. He specially coveted the Baltic coast and, anticipating Peter the Great, made an attempt to break through on this side, but was foiled in 1558 by a league of



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all his Western enemies against him. Ivan had come to the throne as a mere child, and being clever and extremely high-strung, had bitterly felt the arrogance of the greater nobles during his minority. Ivan suddenly and easily threw off their tutelage (1543), and ruled at first wisely, introducing important reforms. He created local elective institutions, to which he gave a considerable measure of control over the local governors, and he summoned a series of "zemskie sobory" (national assemblies) which, without derogation to his own authority, he consulted on serious issues, including even questions of peace or war. Later, disillusioned in some of his counsellors, he lost his mental balance and established a sheer reign of terror and killed his eldest son with his own hand.

### Foundation of the Russia Company

It was in this reign that an English naval expedition, under Chancellor, made its way to Archangel (1553). Ivan received the travellers cordially in Moscow, and commercial relations with England were established, resulting in the foundation of the Russia Company, which still exists.

The Muscovite state was in incessant war on all sides. The expansion of Russian population eastwards kept up a constant atmosphere of raids and counter raids, and large armies had to take the field nearly every year. The state was therefore based on a system by which domains were portioned out to its principal servants with the obligation of acting as colonels of militia, as tax collectors, and as local magistrates. Thus the right of the peasant to move elsewhere, though not yet abolished in principle, was more and more restricted in practice. The increasing state burdens and state control, especially near the centre, drove numberless peasants to find any outlet, legal or otherwise, and thus the outward pressure of Russian colonisation was only strengthened by the increase of control within.

### Romance of the Pretender Dmitry

These conditions led to terrible convulsions after Ivan's death. His son, Fedor, died childless in 1598, and was succeeded by his chief minister, Boris Godunov, who was brother-in-law to Fedor, and was strongly suspected of having murdered Fedor's half-brother Dmitry, the only remaining son of Ivan. Boris ruled by suspicion and oppression. Soon it was reported that Dmitry was alive and in Poland. The Pretender advanced without serious resistance to Moscow, Boris dying suddenly before his arrival. After a year's reign (1606), the Pretender

was overthrown by a Russian boyar (or landowner), Vasily Shuisky. However, a second Pretender, who also claimed to be Dmitry, appeared in the provinces and, rallying various elements of disorder, almost blockaded Shuisky in Moscow.

Polish partisan bands ran riot through the country, and ultimately some of the leading Russian nobles, in fear of the growing anarchy and the beginnings of a class war, offered the throne to the Polish crown prince, Ladislav or Vladislav.

Ladislav's father, King Sigismund of Poland, preferred, however, to use the occasion to annex Russian territory to Poland, and conquered Smolensk. On the initiative of the Russian Church, and especially of the Trinity Monastery near Moscow, which the Poles in vain besieged for a year, a patriotic movement began, and ultimately a national army, led by Prince Pozharsky and a butcher, Minin, regained Moscow, and summoned a national assembly of all classes, which elected as tsar Michael Romanov (1613). Michael was the young son of a conspicuous Moscow noble, who had been compelled by Boris to become a monk, and was now at the head of the Church.

### Serfdom Under the Romanovs

The Patriarchate or single authority in the Church had been established in Russia in 1589, as one of the consequences of the fall of Constantinople. The Church, by its authority, had done more than anything else to bridge the interregnum between the two dynasties, and the Patriarch Philaret, as he was now called, was the father of the new tsar.

Under the new dynasty the nobles recovered their power, and the zemskie sobory, frequently consulted in the reign of Michael and his son Alexis (1645), gradually ceased to exist. The remains of local self-government also passed away, and on the occasion of the codification of existing laws under Alexis in 1649, the peasant definitely became a serf or chattel whose life was at the full disposal of the local squire.

Serfdom, which defined itself so late in Russia, was based not on feudalism, but on the obligation of the squire to provide recruits for the army and taxes for the treasury, in return for which he received an absolute authority over the peasants on his land, who even ceased to be regarded as distinct from him in the eyes of the law. Serfdom, during the succeeding reigns, became more and more aggravated with the increase of the army and of taxation, and it even became customary for owners to sell individual peasants away from their estates apart from the remaining members of their families. As a result, the migration of



## RUSSIA: HISTORICAL SKETCH

discontented elements from the centre continued to increase. Many went to Siberia as a line of least resistance, and before the end of the seventeenth century Russian colonies had settled on the Pacific. On the south-west frontier, where conditions of war were almost constant, there had sprung up colonies of Cossacks (or free lances) which, during the interregnum between the dynasties, had aggravated public disorder and gave equal trouble both to Russia and to Poland.

The Dnieper Cossacks, in the reign of Alexis, offered themselves to Moscow to guarantee themselves against Polish control, and the offer was, after much hesitation, accepted.

In the same reign the increasing needs of the state compelled the Moscow government to invite foreign instructors, first military, then scientists, organizers, and traders. There was now a strongly developed German suburb at Moscow. Alexis' very able foreign minister, Ordyn-Nashchokin, tried to inaugurate an intelligent economic policy and local self-government.

### Accession of Peter the Great

After the death of Alexis' eldest son and successor Fedor in 1682, a son of Alexis' second marriage, Peter, who was only ten, was chosen as tsar. Peter's half-sister, the Princess Sophia, seized the power. She showed ability and intelligence and a desire to learn from Western civilization. She was, however, displaced by Peter, now grown to manhood, in 1689. Seeking outlets for Russia to the west, he conquered the Turkish fortress of Azov, and concentrated his energy on developing the port of Archangel. He himself came for instruction to Europe, and engaged large numbers of experts and skilled workmen for the service of Russia (1697-98). He was called back by a revolt of his Palace Guard (the Streltsy), which he dissolved, replacing it by troops on the Western model and led largely by foreigners.

To gain an outlet to the Baltic, Peter formed a coalition against the young king of Sweden, Charles XII.

The bulk of Peter's reign was taken up with this war, which, by the way, dictated most of his reforms. The gallant Swede crushed Peter's loose forces at Narva, but by a thorough military organization Peter was, in 1709, able to rout his rival at Poltava.

By conquering the Baltic coast as far south as Riga, Peter brought into the empire a considerable number of German subjects, who later took a prominent part in its administration. By a series of marriages he also obtained an influence

among the princes of Germany. Final peace with Sweden was obtained in 1721, at Nystadt. Peter died in 1725.

With one exception, the whole system of administration of Russia, and indeed the whole structure of its society, was radically changed by Peter. He created a huge standing army, based upon the severest recruiting system, which he quartered on the various provinces. All the gentry he compelled to serve the state; he forced them into schools, and forbade them to marry until they had obtained his certificate of education. Birth was henceforward to give place entirely to seniority in the state service, which was tabulated in the most precise way by ranks ("chiny").

### Reorganization of the State

Peter created a senate, nominated by himself, and authorised as a standing institution to replace the emperor in his absence or minority, and he handed over the control of the Church to a similar standing commission—the Holy Synod—to which for purposes of control he attached a procurator of his own. He created for each function of the state, especially military, a "College" of persons corporately responsible for executing his decisions. He instituted the sole succession of eldest sons, the younger being compelled to seek their fortunes in the state service. He developed in every way open to him the economic resources of the country, forming companies indiscriminately of Russians and foreigners, to which he handed over whole villages of serf workmen and gave large government contracts. He worked hard to create a system of roads and canals. He made the merchant class more compact, giving it a considerable measure of self-government, especially in matters of trade.

### A Break with the Past

Peter, however, though essentially by his character a peasants' tsar, and always ready to do his work with his own hands, did nothing at all for the peasants except to increase infinitely the burden of taxation and recruitment. Peter's changes, though the product of hand-to-mouth experience and necessity, involved a complete break with Russia's past. In every case he attempted by short cuts to obtain a finished product of state service comparable to that which had grown up by slow stages and on the basis of civilization in Western Europe. One of Peter's latest acts was to claim for the sovereign the right of determining the succession, a right of which he never made use. In consequence, there followed some forty years of palace anarchy



## RUSSIA: HISTORICAL SKETCH

and violence, in which the country at large had no part.

Peter was succeeded by his second wife, a Lithuanian peasant (Catherine II., 1725), next by his grandson by his first wife (Peter II., 1727), next by the daughter of his half-brother (Anne, 1730), next by a great-grandson of his half-brother (Ivan VI., 1740), and in 1741 by his daughter Elizabeth, who, though extravagant and capricious, gave a short period of repose to the country.

### Conflict Between Russia and Prussia

Elizabeth and her able minister, Shuvalov, sought to bring Russia nearer to French standards of enlightenment, and founded Moscow University. She abolished the death penalty, though torture was retained. Personal antipathy to Frederick the Great led her to join with France and Austria in the attempt to annihilate Prussia, and among the battles in which the genius of Frederick triumphed over his overwhelmingly superior enemies, none brought him nearer to the end of his forces than those which he fought against the Russians (Zorndorf and Künersdorf). Russian troops even succeeded in raiding Berlin. The death of Elizabeth in 1761 saved Frederick from destruction.

Her nephew, Peter III., was hopelessly incompetent. His wife, Catherine, originally Princess Sophia of Anhalt-Zerbst, was a woman of exceptional intellect and energy, and finding herself openly insulted and threatened by her husband, she dethroned him without difficulty. Peter was murdered shortly afterwards.

### Contentious Reign of Catherine II.

Catherine II. having no kind of legal title to the throne, was struggling throughout her reign (1762-96) with pretenders in the names of her dispossessed predecessors or her son Paul. All these movements she succeeded in crushing. She summoned a remarkable national assembly to assist her in the codification of the laws, but much as the assembly taught Catherine about the conditions of her empire, it did not bring about any serious legislation, and her sincere efforts to raise the question of the emancipation of the serfs broke down against the vested interests of property.

All that she could do was to promote Western instincts among the gentry, who were the support of her throne and almost the only body in the country possessing legal rights. In 1771-74 the whole foundations of the state were disturbed, first by a grievous plague in Moscow, and then by the rising of all the discontented elements around a Cossack, Pugachev. Largely owing to her own personal

courage, the rising was suppressed. There were savage reprisals, and all thought of serious reform became impossible.

While the empire remained at the bottom entirely uncivilized, Catherine, by masterly diplomacy, added to it enormous tracts of territory. Prussia and Austria, fearing the capture of Constantinople, induced her to take her compensation for her victory over the Turks in conjunction with them by a partition of Poland. The Turkish wars brought Catherine to an indecisive war with Sweden. Catherine also formed a league of armed neutrality during the American War of Independence to limit the use which England made of her sea power in time of war, and it is this reign which marks the beginning of Russophobia in England.

### Alexander's Futile Efforts for Peace

The outbreak of the French Revolution finally deprived Catherine of any further desire for reform, and a new epoch of Russian history began, in which, instead of the sovereign forcing enlightenment upon the people, the state resisted any attempt of the people to take a part in its own government.

Paul (1796), long dispossessed, was sullen, futile, and capricious. A naval league against England was formed, and Paul and Napoleon even planned the conquest of India. Nelson defeated the new coalition at Copenhagen, and was on his way to Reval when he learned that Paul had been assassinated (1801).

Paul's successor, Alexander, a young man of brilliant promise, had been educated personally by Catherine and by the French thinker, La Harpe. His reign opened with an attempt to secure a general peace in Europe, and to frame a liberal constitution for Russia. His plans for a constitution broke down against the unpreparedness and ignorance of the population, and his efforts for peace ended only in the third coalition against Napoleon and the crushing defeat of Alexander himself at Austerlitz (Dec. 2, 1805). The peace that followed became an alliance against Alexander's former friends, and he subscribed to the Continental blockade against England, which proved ruinous to Russian trade.

The two emperors drifted back into war. In 1812, Napoleon invaded Russia and after hard fighting occupied Moscow, only to find his enemy more determined than ever. He retreated in face of the Russian winter, which was fatal to nine-tenths of his army.

Russian troops took an honourable part in the campaign of 1813 and 1814, and Alexander, whose decision to follow Napoleon into the west had made possible



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the liberation of Western Europe, claimed generous treatment for the defeated emperor, and later insisted on the grant of a French constitution as a necessary condition to the return of the Bourbons.

The magnitude of events had set on Alexander a deep impress of religious mysticism. He planned a holy alliance of monarchs, who should themselves engage to keep peace with each other and to work for the good of their peoples. As far as this took shape later, it was in the form of a police league of sovereigns against peoples. Contact with the West spread liberal and vaguely socialist ideas among several of the abler officers in the Guard. Small revolutionary groups sprang up in Russia, one (in the north) aiming at constitutionalism, and another (in the south) at something not far removed from communism. It was now (1825) that Alexander disappeared from the scene. By many it was believed that he did not die, but became a monk.

### Freedom of the Russian Serfs

At the news of his death his younger brother, Nicholas, proclaimed in St. Petersburg the next heir Constantine; but Constantine, who was in Warsaw, had privately abdicated his rights, and therefore proclaimed Nicholas. The confusion which followed was utilised by the conspirators to rise in the name of Constantine and the Constitution. The few troops which joined the rising were suppressed with force, and Nicholas began his reign by investigating this conspiracy.

Up to 1830 Nicholas seriously tried to bring practical improvements into the administration and even to deal with the question of serfdom. Then, when France finally expelled the Bourbons, the Poles rose for independence. Nicholas ruthlessly suppressed the rising, and took a prominent part as the champion of reaction in Europe in the succeeding years, during which police rule in Russia became more pronounced than ever.

The result of Nicholas' aggressive policy abroad was the Crimean War, which cost Russia great losses and great distress. In February, 1855, he died, already aware that his whole system was breaking down.

Alexander II. (1855-81), in his first manifesto, gave precedence to questions of reform. Extracting himself as best he could from the war, he set about the abolition of serfdom. Roughly about one-half of the land holdings were allotted to the peasants, who were to pay redemption dues for them over a period of fifty years. Compensation to the landowners was defrayed at once by the state, and was in most cases rapidly expended, so that many of the gentry, losing all importance in the country, joined the

town population. The system of communal tenure among the peasants themselves was retained, and the communes were given a measure of administrative authority and were linked up to the central system of administration.

### Extension of Local Government

To replace the local authority of the squires there were introduced in 1864 county councils (*zemstva*) elected by the whole local population and authorised to levy rates. To these bodies were entrusted such questions as education, public health, and sanitation. The system of justice was reformed (1862-65) and trial by jury was introduced; judges were declared to be irremovable. A change in the law as to the Press, which substituted a punitive censorship for a preliminary, was nullified by the provision which gave the punitive power not to the law courts but to the administrative officials. Another statute accorded the right of self-government to the universities. The town councils were remodelled on similar lines to the new county councils, but with greater restrictions. The old army, based on serfdom, was replaced by a new army based on conscription.

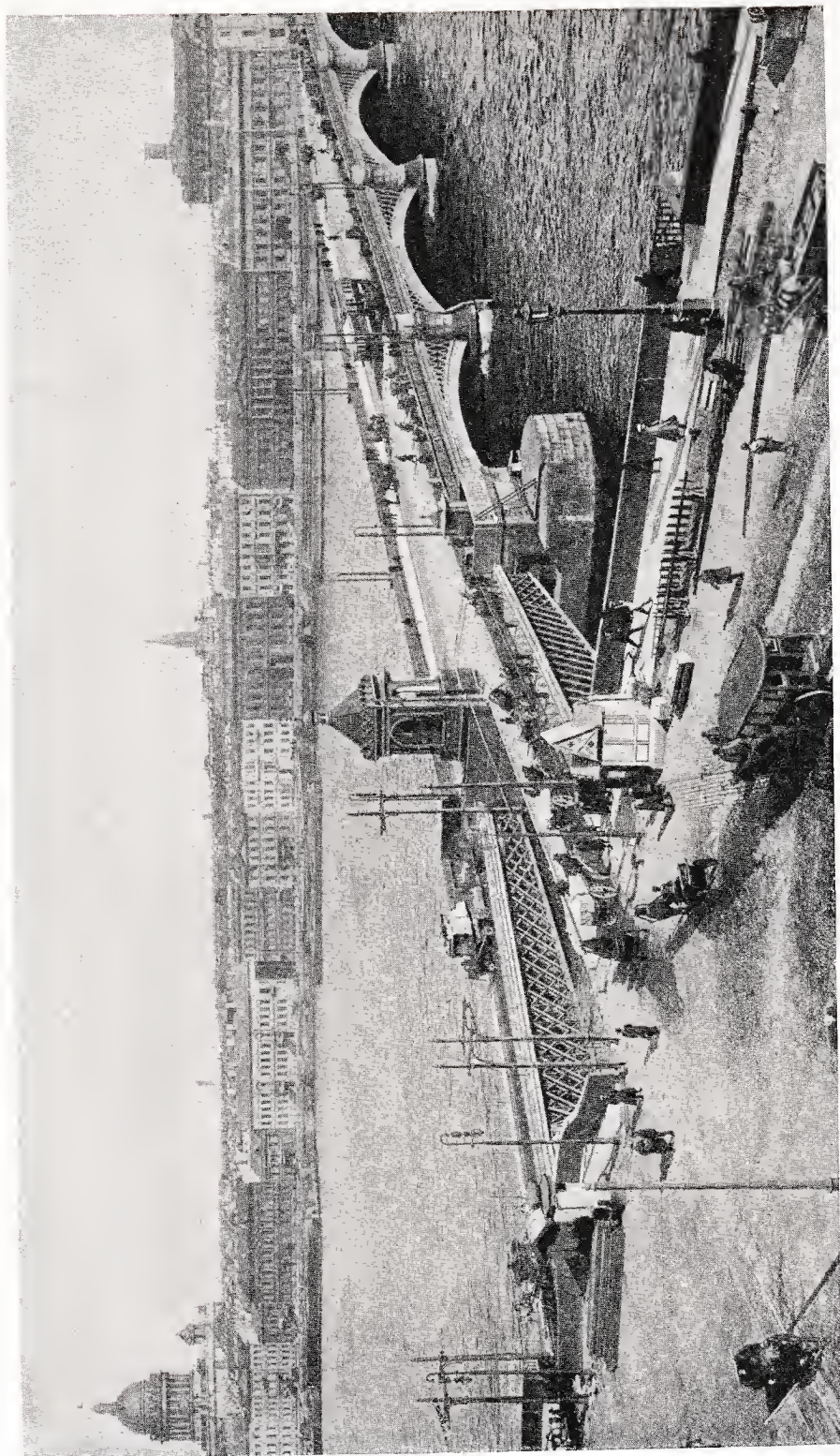
In 1863 the Poles made another desperate but abortive attempt to recover their liberty, and were deprived as far as possible of all marks of national existence.

### Reforming Ardour Followed by Reaction

The greatest Russian writers (the poets Pushkin and Lermontov, the novelists Gogol, Turgenev, Dostoevski and Tolstoy) lived and worked under the oppressive system of Nicholas. In the same reign Belinsky laid the foundations of literary criticism. A new generation of political theorists took the field, roughly breaking with the conventions of the past, and violently attacking the spokesmen of Liberalism; and as the reforming ardour of the emperor tired and reaction set in, numbers of young students, men and women, went to the peasantry to educate them in their various political and social theories. Finding practically no response among the peasants, some of these groups drifted to the back quarters of the larger towns and declared war on the government and on the emperor. High police officers and even governors were stricken down.

Risings in the Balkans in 1874 led to violent Turkish repression, and in 1877 the emperor was practically forced by public opinion to go to the assistance of the Christian Slavs, with whom many of his subjects were already serving as volunteers. The Russian troops crossed the Balkans and reached the gates of





**PETROGRAD: VIEW OF THE SEVEN-PIERED NICHOLAS BRIDGE SPANNING THE WATERS OF THE RIVER NEVA**

Petrograd possesses few national or real Russian features, and its outward appearance has long been that of a modern and Western city. The long rows of secular buildings interspersed with churches are seen to best advantage from the quays and the Neva, which in past, less troublous times were, in summer, usually much animated by carriages and shipping. The Nicholas Bridge, connecting the English Quay with Vassili Ostrov on the right bank of the Neva, is a fine granite and iron structure, at one end of which stands a miniature marble chapel erected in 1854 and dedicated to S. Nicholas



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Constantinople. The Russo-Turkish War was ended by the Treaty of San Stefano (January, 1878), which gave the new Bulgaria a seaboard on the *Ægean*; but that of Berlin (July 13, 1878) revised the first in a sense wholly hostile to Russia. The Bulgarians, lately liberated by her, were placed under a guarantee of Europe in general, chiefly against Russia. Meanwhile the Bosnians, who are Serbs, were withdrawn from Turkish rule only to be put under that of Austria.

The Treaty of Berlin came as a serious check to Russian aspirations whether religious, patriotic, or democratic. There was a revival of Liberal patriotic opinion during the deadly war between nihilists and the government. The emperor appointed as his chief minister Loris-Melikov (1880), whose programme was to crush revolution but to win the confidence of the general public. The revolutionaries were relentlessly pursued, but the emperor was at last persuaded to summon representatives of the county councils and other bodies to St. Petersburg to take part in the drafting of laws. On the day that he took this decision he was assassinated (March 13, 1881).

### Russia's Forward Policy in the East

His successor, Alexander III. (1881-94), for a time put a certain value on experts as consultants of the government, but soon fell back into sheer reaction. The small revolutionary groups were rounded up and punished. The censorship again became intolerable. Education was dragooned, and made as inaccessible as possible to the poorer classes. Travel in Europe was restricted. The Church (through the Procurator of the Holy Synod) was made more and more the instrument of police rule and reaction.

Only the peasants obtained some alleviations of their state burdens. Meanwhile, in its anxiety to get away from the contagious example of Europe, the government prosecuted advance eastwards, and further large tracts fell under Russian rule, with the result that British fears as to India were accentuated and more than once almost led to conflict with Russia.

The Russian race spread itself through Siberia. Isolated in Europe, Russia sought to rule the East, an ambition which harmonised with Germany's desire to get a free field in the Balkans. Russian expansion eastwards reached the confines of dense population in China and later raised questions between Russia and Japan. Non-Russian nationalities of the empire, especially to the west—the Finns, the Germans, the Poles, and the Jews—were subjected to a policy of "russification," aimed at crushing out their national

distinctiveness. Alexander III. kept peace with Europe, but his policy in the Balkans, culminating in the kidnapping of Prince Alexander of Battenberg, kept alive the distrust of the West. To balance the strength of Imperial Germany, the Russian government with some hesitation entered into closer relations with France.

All this time, though at first almost without the attention of the government, Russia was herself undergoing a rapid economic development. The freedom of labour to migrate, together with the exploitation of coal and iron in South Russia, especially on the Donets, created a new industrial area, and the centre of population steadily gravitated southwards. Witte, who had risen from employment on the Odessa Railway to be Minister of Transport and later of Finance (1893-1903), furthered this industrial development in every way.

### Socialism and Economic Development

By adopting a gold standard, he facilitated relations with foreign credit of which he made the widest use. In particular, foreign merchants were encouraged to set up works in Russia. New mines and factories received not only concessions and subsidies, but large orders from the government, which was at this time constructing the Trans-Siberian Railway. Witte also enriched the treasury by restoring the state monopoly of spirit.

This industrialisation of Russia, falling at the very time when Marxism was making progress in Western Europe, led to the formation of groups of Socialist thinkers in Russia. Witte endeavoured to win the new industrial workers for the government by a philanthropic system of factory laws and the institution of factory inspectors who were expected to safeguard the interests of the workers; factories were required to establish hospitals, schools, and crèches.

### Accession of Nicholas II.

Severe famines in 1891 and 1892 led to a great revival of interest of the public in the peasant. Again students from the universities streamed down to the country, and this time they found useful professional employment as schoolmasters, doctors, or technical experts in the service of the *zemstva*. *Zemstvo* work everywhere revived, and, on the accession of a new sovereign, Nicholas II. (1894-1917), there were again strong requests for constitutional government. These requests were rudely rebuffed, but the *zemstva*, and later the town councils, though increasingly restricted in their powers, particularly in that of levying rates and in that of enforcing their by-laws,



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instituted a campaign of public service which formed a school alike for their members and for their employees.

The leading zemstvo was that of Moscow, which, under D. N. Shipov, served as a model to the rest of the country. Urgent economic questions forced the government to appoint commissions—for instance, to deal with the growing impoverishment of the centre—and on these commissions those members who were associated with zemstvo work supported a common programme. Anxious to utilise this new force in his struggle with the more reactionary ministers, Witte instituted, in 1902, local economic committees based on the zemstva. He was driven from power by his rival Plehve, who later annulled the re-election of Shipov as chairman of the Moscow zemstvo.

### Causes of the Russo-Japanese War

The Russian policy of advance eastwards had by now brought Russia to grips with Japan. The Japanese War (1904-5), which was due in part to commercial ambitions of a small group associated with the court, proved the bankruptcy of both the foreign and internal policy of the government. Each reverse in the war was accentuated by troubles at home, which made the government unwilling to send its best troops to the front.

At home two movements ran side by side, one for reform and one for wholesale revolution. In July, 1904, the reactionary minister Plehve was assassinated, and the emperor named as his successor a high official with Liberal views, Prince Svyatopolk-Mirsky, who appealed to the public for its confidence and received a sympathetic response. Moved by the troubled state of the country, leading members of zemstva met in conference in November, 1904, and put forward a programme of far-reaching reforms, including a National Assembly.

### Crowning Catastrophe of the Struggle

The emperor forbade the zemstva to talk politics, and announced that he would himself give reforms. There followed a number of professional banquets, at which each profession, practically with unanimity, supported the programme of the zemstva and formed a professional union for the purpose. In January, after a prolonged strike in St. Petersburg, the priest Gapon, formerly and later an agent of the police, led an enormous crowd to the Winter Palace to ask for reforms; the procession was fired on by troops, and there were many victims; police expulsions dispersed many of the demonstrators all over Russia, and there sprang up an epidemic of strikes.

Meanwhile, the more advanced of the zemstvo men set about the formation of a Liberal Party. In February the emperor's uncle, the Grand Duke Sergius, governor-general of Moscow, was assassinated in the Kremlin. The emperor, reproaching this act, at the same time promised a National Assembly. Various parties now began to organize themselves.

The crowning catastrophe of the Japanese War was the destruction of the Russian Fleet at Tsushima (May 27, 1905). Universal indignation found expression in a deputation from men of various parties which was received by the emperor on June 19. Congresses and party conferences followed, and in August the government announced a scheme for an Imperial Duma. In this project the franchise was hopelessly restricted, and the assembly was only to be consultative. Disorders continued, and Poland and other outlying parts almost passed out of control.

The crew of the battleship Potemkin mutinied in the Black Sea and caused consternation in Odessa. Capable agitators created in the country areas a peasants' union, and agrarian riots on a large scale lasted well into the winter, and were only repressed by punitive columns. Witte had, meanwhile, secured moderate terms from the Japanese in the Treaty of Portsmouth.

### The Government and the First Duma

In October, practically without organization, starting from a strike of the railwaymen, a general strike spread over the country; and on October 30 the emperor, recalling Witte to power as his Prime Minister, issued a manifesto in which he rectified the limitations of the project of the Duma, extending the franchise and making it legislative, and promulgated from the throne the reforming policy of the first zemstvo conference.

The October manifesto was hailed by many, but disorders did not diminish. A Council of Workmen, which came into being during the strike, challenged the authority of the government in St. Petersburg, but the new strikes for which it called were not effective. On the arrest of some of its members there was a short rising in Moscow, which tended only to discredit the revolutionaries and to tire the public mind of convulsions.

It was at this moment that the law of the Duma was practically made to include universal franchise (December). The tide now flowed the other way. Repression set in, and a peculiarly savage rising in Latvia was ruthlessly crushed. By a number of new fundamental laws made on its own sole initiative, the government limited the competence of the Duma.



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The Duma, when elected, proved to be predominantly Liberal, the dominant party being the Cadets (Constitutional Democrats). It made an almost unanimous demand for detailed reforms, passed a vote of censure on the ministry, and adopted several bills which received no attention. The government invited the country not to trust the Duma, and the Duma replying with an appeal to the people was dissolved (July, 1906).

The minister to whom was entrusted the dissolution of the Duma was P. A. Stolypin. Like Loris-Melikov, he desired to crush revolution and to promote reform. The revolutionary organizations were almost exterminated by field courts-martial. On the other hand, in November, Stolypin, on his own authority, authorised peasants to convert their holdings in the commune into personal property.

The elections to the Second Duma were an almost unanimous reprobation of the dissolution of the First, whose protesting members had been excluded by the government from re-election. The Second Duma was markedly inferior to its predecessor, and kept as quiet as possible in order to prolong its existence, but the reactionaries had now taken heart, Stolypin's influence at court was much diminished, and after a couple of provocative plots the Second Duma was dissolved. At the same time the predominance in the Duma was, by new wholesale restrictions of franchise, transferred to the gentry (June, 1907).

### Third Duma's Record of Reform

Little was hoped of the Third Duma. Here the prevailing party were the Octobrists, or Conservative Reformers, who took their stand on the manifesto of October 30, 1905, and the Cadets, or Liberals, were a small minority. The Third Duma (1907-12), however, managed not only to live out its period of five years but to make a definite mark on both legislation and public opinion. Much was done in army and navy reform, in education (made in principle universal), and in the bettering of social conditions.

The principal act of the Duma was the modification and adoption of Stolypin's land decree, and in many parts there began to arise a race of yeomen, living on their own farms apart from interference of the commune, which, as far as land tenure was concerned, in several places dissolved itself. This led to cultivation of waste areas and also incidentally to an influx of peasants into the towns, bringing with them the price which they had received for the sale of their land. The economic progress of the country made very great strides in this period. The employers in various trades were

federated and united in a Council of Trades and Industries which constantly demanded freedom of industrial initiative. Much foreign capital came into Russia; the first Chamber of Commerce was founded specially to promote trade with Great Britain, to which the Duma, as a whole, showed a marked friendliness. These effects flowed from a treaty between the two countries in 1907, which made a satisfactory settlement of their disputes concerning Persia. The Fourth Duma, elected in 1912, contained practically the same personnel as the Third, and continued in every way to develop friendship with Britain.

### Bolsheviks and Mensheviks

Socialist groups had grown greatly in the troubled years. The Socialist Revolutionaries, a country party of Russian origin, had been in the field since 1900 and commanded a great deal of support. Marxism, or Social Democracy, had many adherents in the towns. At a congress held abroad in 1903 the Social Democrats broke up into two groups, of which the Mensheviks, headed by Plekhanov, were prepared to deal with and utilize a regime which was becoming increasingly constitutional, while the Bolsheviks, under Lenin, worked for a class war.

In 1909 Austria announced her final annexation of Bosnia, and simultaneously Bulgaria declared her independence from Turkey. This raised again the Serbian question, and there were vehement Serbian protests backed up by the great majority of Russians, independently of party. Germany then made it clear that she was behind Austria, and gave a direct challenge to Russia. Stolypin did not feel strong enough for war, and, after negotiations in which friendly services were rendered by Great Britain, the protests were allowed to drop. In 1911 Stolypin was assassinated. From 1909 onwards Russian opinion was convinced that German aggression and the German challenge would be repeated.

### Russia and the Great War

The murder of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, in 1914, again raised the whole question. Austria and Germany used the occasion for demands on Serbia which brought on the Great War. This war was at first popular in Russia, chiefly as a reply to German aggression and as effecting an alliance with Britain and France. The provision for Red Cross service, and later for the other needs of the army, was left to the "Zemsky Soyuz," an organization of the *zemstva* under Prince Lvov. Numberless volunteers anticipated their time of service. Poland was at first left open, and Russia



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concentrated her forces principally on the south-west. Here an invading army of Austrians, close upon a million men, was turned by its right flank and driven almost out of Galicia (Aug.-Sept.). When the Germans were successfully advancing on Paris, a Russian counter-stroke was launched on East Prussia, but espionage and lack of organization led to the disaster of Tannenberg (August), where the army of Samsonov was practically annihilated; this diversion, however, had succeeded in drawing off German forces from the advance on Paris.

### Ministry Loses Public Confidence

Warsaw was now strongly occupied by the Russians, and a German attacking force was driven off and pursued. In May, 1915, however, a powerful artillery concentration was made against the Russians in Galicia, and, after heroic sacrifices, the Russians were expelled from Austrian territory. The same artillery superiority broke up the whole Russian line. Warsaw was lost, and by the autumn of 1915 the Russians had retreated to the line of the Pinsk marshes.

The next year was marked only by fewer and more local operations, which, however, testified to the steadiness of the Russians and to a somewhat increased equipment. The Duma, whose members had so far mostly confined themselves to war services, now took an active part in demanding efficiency, especially in face of the munition scandals of the previous year, and a group of parties constituting an effective majority, and known as the Progressive Bloc, demanded a ministry possessing the national confidence.

### Abdication of the Tsar

The reply of the court was the expulsion of the more Liberal ministers, such as the Foreign Minister Sazonov, and their replacement by men of dubious antecedents and convictions. The new Prime Minister, Stürmer, was practically driven from office by the contempt with which he was received by the Duma. Grave scandals, not unconnected with the equipment of the army, centred on the name of a dissolute priest Rasputin, who enjoyed unlimited credit at the court. The emperor made a visit of conciliation to the Duma, but the ministry was suspected of planning a separate peace.

The rout of the Rumanian armies increased the general distrust of the government. The colossal casualties of the war had had their effect upon the mood of the public, though the army continued to hold good.

In March, 1917, the Minister of the Interior, Protopopov, precipitated matters by posting policemen with machine-guns

at various points in Petrograd (the new name for the capital, introduced during the war), to fire on crowds which were asking for bread. The troops began joining the side of the people, and the government collapsed without any effective resistance. The emperor abdicated, leaving the power in the hands of a provisional government formed by the Duma.

Again a reform and a revolution movement went on side by side; but this time, in view of the extreme war weariness and the collapse of the whole administration, the second prevailed. The provisional government, formed in the main out of the Progressive Bloc, was from the outset at issue with a Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Deputies. The new government declared at once for universal franchise and a Constituent Assembly, and at once conceded full independence to Poland. It was never, however, able to establish its authority, which was threatened by the Bolshevik group, actively supported by German organization and money. An army order of the Council, which practically released the soldiers from the authority of their officers, completely disorganized the army. The more moderate ministers resigned.

### Lenin and Trotsky in Power

A Socialist Revolutionary, Kerensky, held a dictatorship for some months, but a rupture ensued between him and the Commander-in-Chief, Kornilov, who made an unsuccessful attempt to dissolve the Council; and in November Kerensky, in turn, fell before a Bolshevik coup d'état planned with ability by L. Trotsky.

The Bolsheviks established a Government of People's Commissars, of which V. Lenin was President, based in principle on a system of Soviets (or councils), from which all but the working class were excluded. All property was declared to be nationalized, including the profits of industry or agriculture. Peace was concluded with the Central Powers at Brest-Litovsk (1918) on humiliating terms.

The Red Army was ably organized by Trotsky, and various attacks led by Generals Kornilov, Alexeiev, and Denikin in the south, by Admiral Kolchak in Siberia, by General Miller in Archangel, by General Yudenich near Petrograd, and by General Wrangel in the Crimea, which were backed with growing half-heartedness by the Entente Powers, were successfully defeated (1918-20).

Recurring risings of peasants were crushed by punitive columns. An Extraordinary Commission dealt wholesale and summarily with all opponents of the new regime. Only Bolshevik literature was allowed; extensive propaganda was organized all over the country, and a



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comprehensive system of education was planned.

The Reign of Terror was quickly aggravated by epidemics, mortality, and depopulation of the towns, and, after the seizure of the peasants' stock of grain by military expeditions of the government, wholesale famine broke out on the Volga and in South Russia and Crimea.

Among the people there was a notable religious revival and a strong tendency towards individualism and decentralization. A war with Poland (1920) in which the Red Army was driven back from the

gates of Warsaw by the generalship of the French General Weygand, had closed the period of external conflicts, and in March, 1921, Lenin pronounced for "an economic retreat" from the application of Marxist principles and sanctioned a partial restoration of private enterprise in trade.

After negotiations with several European Powers, conferences were held on the initiative of Britain at Genoa and The Hague, with the object of organizing and regulating European assistance for the restoration of normal conditions in the great Slav state.

## RUSSIA: FACTS AND FIGURES

### The Country

Mainly a vast plain stretching from the Black Sea to the Arctic Ocean. Valdai Hills rise in central part and form principal water parting, main rivers draining thence to Black, Baltic, and Caspian Seas. Northward the boundary is the Arctic Ocean; east a line through the Kirghiz Steppes and the Ural Mountains on whose other side lies Siberia; south the Caspian Sea, the Black Sea, and Rumania; west, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Esthonia, the Baltic, and Finland. Only hills exceeding 5,000 feet are in Urals, Crimea, and Caucasus. Elsewhere land surface is mostly under 1,200 feet. Rivers form important national highways, but traffic is much interrupted by floods, freezing, and in the autumn, shortage of water. In the south-east are vast tracts of nearly featureless country called steppes through which rivers flow in deep trenches below general level. Winter lasts six months at Archangel when average daily temperature is below freezing point, five months in Petrograd, and less than three on Black Sea littoral. Large areas are forest-covered and north of them within Arctic Circle are the tundras, marshes in summer and frozen in winter. Total area of European Russia about 1,700,000 square miles with estimated population of 100,000,000.

### Government and Constitution

Russia is styled a Socialist Federal Soviet Republic. A constitution was published July 19, 1918, and afterwards amended, which pronounced the country to be a republic of Soviets of Workers', Soldiers', and Peasants' Deputies with entire authority in their hands. Mines, waterways of national importance, livestock, and all land are declared the property of nation, as are all means of transport and production, though these may be leased to private individuals. Constitution assures freedom of opinion, conscience, and the Press. All-Russian Congress of Soviets consists in the case of town Soviets of one representative for every 25,000 inhabitants, and for Provincial Congresses of one for every 125,000. The All-Russian Congress of Soviets elects an All-Russian Central Executive Committee of 386 members meeting not less than once every two months, and in this body is vested legislative, controlling, and administrative powers. Franchise-universal and for both sexes after age of eighteen, provided that elector earns a living by productive labour. No priest, ward, or any person deprived of civic right in a criminal court, or who employs others for profit or lives on unearned income, may vote.

### Defence

Service in army universal and compulsory, but only labourers allowed privilege of actually bearing

arms for the Soviet, other citizens doing other work of military importance. Red army has a peace strength of about 600,000. There is besides a militia recruited universally from age of eighteen. For the better organization of this force the country is divided into ninety-three regimental districts. Large percentage of officers come from peasant and worker community, though officers of the old imperial army were largely used for organization and training purposes. The navy consists of Baltic fleet and a Black Sea flotilla. In the Baltic there are four old Dreadnoughts, two cruisers, some sixty destroyers, and fifteen submarines. There are also flotillas on the Caspian Sea and the River Dnieper.

### Commerce and Industries

Main product of Russia is grain, 47,000,000 tons being harvested in 1922. For same year 120,000 acres were under cotton. In 1921 salt production amounted to 993,000 tons, and petroleum 4,807,000 in 1922. In 1922, 4,476 dessiatines (1 dessiatine = 2.7 acres) were described as area of famine; 2,066 dessiatines as partial famine area; and 3,745 as productive non-famine area. Total value of imports for 1922 in millions of gold roubles at prices ruling in 1913 are estimated at 262,211 for 2,054,455 tons of goods, and exports similarly calculated were valued at 74,982 for 865,450 tons. Main articles of import were foodstuffs, coal, and timber seed, and of export, timber, and metal ores. Soviet Government made a Trade Agreement with Great Britain in 1921. Money unit the rouble, 0.46 roubles being officially equal to the pound sterling, the nominal rouble value being about 2s. 1d.

### Communications

There are some 42,500 miles of railway in use, and in European Russia about 20,600 miles of waterway navigable for steamers, 7,400 for light sailing boats, and 88,700 for rafts.

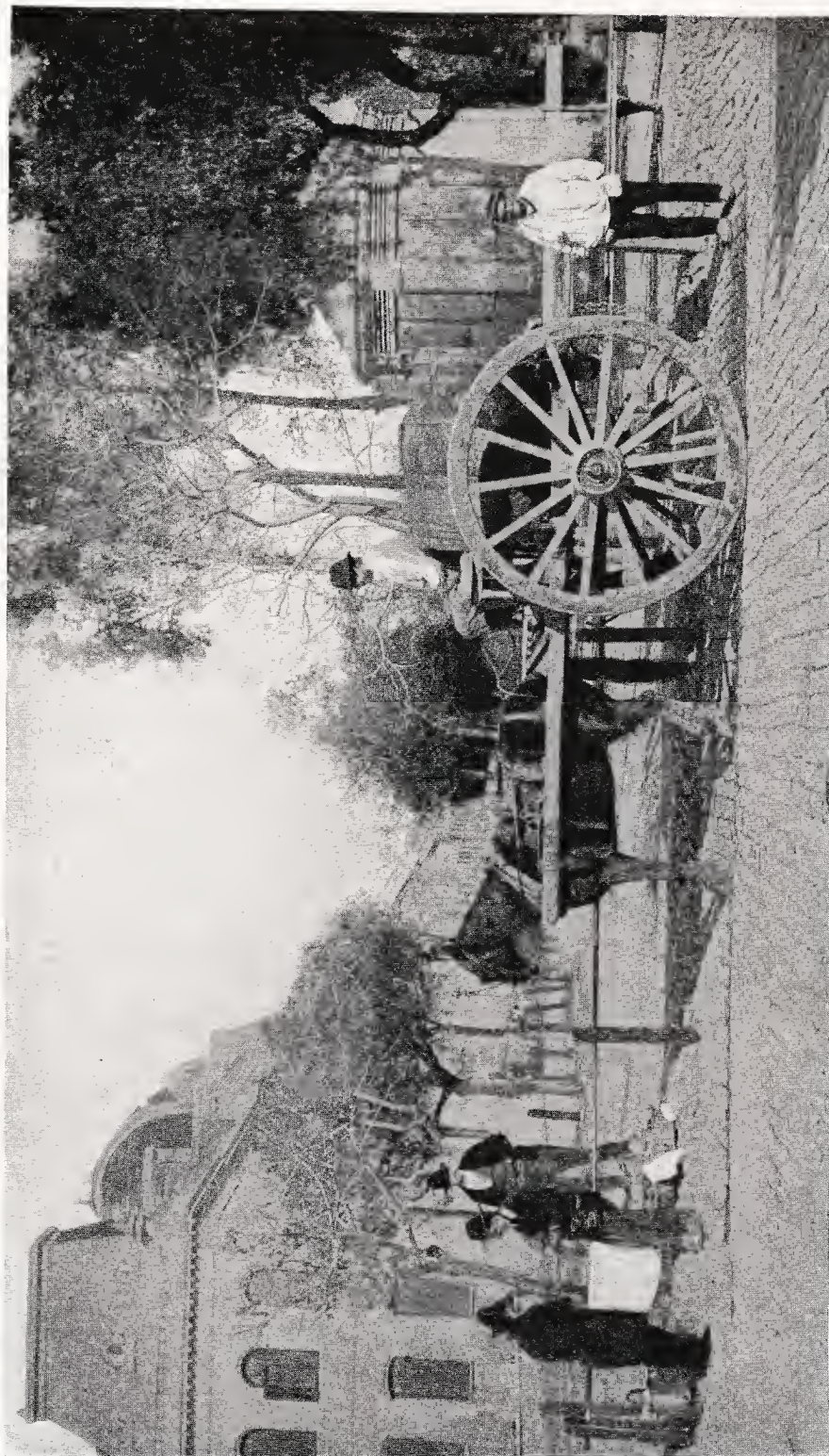
### Religion and Education

Complete religious freedom, though prevailing creed is that of Greek Russian or Orthodox Church which has been disestablished. There are large numbers of Mahomedans in east and south-east of country, and Jews in towns of south-west. Education is compulsory and entirely state controlled. No private school may exist. There are various universities and institutions for medicine, economics, and philology.

### Chief Towns

Petrograd (population 2,318,000), Moscow (1,050,000), Kharkov (258,000), Kazan (195,000), Nijni-Novgorod (112,000), Archangel (43,500).





WATER CARTED IN HOGSHEADS TO LAY THE DUST SCATTERED BY SAN SALVADOR'S VOLCANO

San Salvador, chief of the Republic's cities, occupies a fine site more than two thousand feet above sea level. But as, like many other towns of Central America, it lies within the immediate danger zone of an active volcano and suffers much from the dust and ashes that are periodically belched forth from its mouth, the water carts here have plenty to do. A cobbled space is provided where the great hogsheads that serve for tanks may be replenished from the leather pipe seen above